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AUGUST 7th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 32

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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 32 AUGUST 7th, 1980

Features:

National Scene:
TUNA BOYCOTT ..... Al Ristori 9

Old-Timers' Corner:
ONE MORE FLUKE ..... Matt Ahern 10

NORTHERN KINGFISH ..... Fred Guardineer 11

Fish Talk:
LURE HISTORY ..... William A. Muller 12

Surf Fishing:
STATEN ISLAND ..... Rich Giessuebel 14

SOUTH SIDE
FLUKE FISHING ..... Gerald Hahn 16

THE JIG IS UP ..... Andy Regina 18

TROPHY FISH ..... Al Brissette 21

Departments:

Chum Lines 4
Weigh Stations 6
Pass It On 7
Free Lure Offer 8
Tide Tables 20
Fishing Reports 21
Classified Ads 46
Solunar Tables 20

About the Cover—

This doormat fluke, which is about to be netted, took a squid head bait fished in Moriches Inlet. See the article "South Side Fluke" by Gerald Hahn in this issue. **Photo by GERALD HAHN**

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SNAPPER FISHING**

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Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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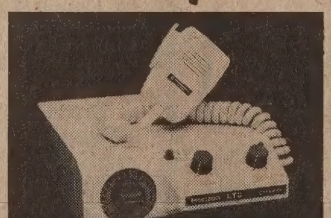

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PROTESTS UNCONTROLLED DRAGGING IN L.I. SOUND

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to the Director, Division Marine Resources, New York State DEC, regarding a dragging operation which still continues as this letter is being written.

I have been a subscriber to the L.I.F. for many years, and have often admired the many stands your people have taken on behalf of what the majority feels is right. Alone, the average man cannot accomplish much these days, and your magazine is often the vehicle through which our voices can be heard.

At this time, my emotion is running very high, and I must just as well take advantage of it, for I have never taken pen in hand before and championed any cause, I am just an average guy who likes to run his boat and fish.

What I have witnessed the past two weeks has prompted me to at least try. Most of the fellows I have talked to say you can't beat politics; I, for one, do not believe that.

I feel this incident is a perfect example of improper regulation of the issurance of dragging permits for an area which is relatively small, especially when that body of water is practically enclosed—a fact that no one seems to take into consideration.

I certainly hope we can do something about this terrible situation so it can be prevented in the future. *A. J. Bagliore, Selden, New York.*

Dear Mr. Taormina: As a resident of Suffolk County and a sport fisherman, I have spent several years and countless hours fishing from my boat in the Port Jefferson area and points east—such as Cedar Beach, Sound Beach, Rocky Point, Shoreham, etc.

It has always been amazing to me that this area would produce mackerel, flounder, blackfish, sea bass (recently), striped bass, weakfish, porgies, bluefish, and so on.

Of course, it hasn't always been like this. There were times when the sea bass and weaks were gone, and the bluefish were scarce. The reasons for this are varied, but fortunately, during the past decade there has been a resurgence of marine life in Long Island Sound, and regardless of the reason, this rebirth has benefitted all concerned—sport fishermen, sport fisherwomen, and the professional fisherman as well.

When I first started fishing the area, it took a couple of years to learn the techniques as well as the locations required to become a reasonably proficient angler. The more I learned, the more consistent my catches became. I would like to point out that I have never taken more than I could

use.

I normally plan my weekend fishing trips around the wind, tide, and species that are prevalent. I take pride in the fact that I manage to return with a few fish on each trip.

During the past two weeks, I have noticed a serious decline in the productivity of the areas in which I fish. Puzzled at first, I attributed the lack of productivity to colder water conditions and other reasons which is a normal reaction when abundant areas fail to produce. Eventually, I began to notice an unusual amount of commercial dragging going on.

The draggers were not the two or three local fellows that are normally seen operating in the area, and in all honesty I cannot estimate the total number of vessels involved. The dragging operation continued on throughout the weekend, which is something the local people never do.

I guess the bottom line is that an area that I considered abundant, teeming with varieties of finfish previously mentioned has been picked clean in a matter of two weeks. The results of the dragging operation, the impact has not set in yet.

The effect on local sport fishermen, party boats, resident draggers, has got to be traumatic. As for myself, I won't plan any trips for awhile. I'll just wait for the blues to come in.

In closing, I would like to state that some serious consideration should be applied to the issuance of permits to non-resident draggers; some game plan should be devised that takes into account the number of vessels already operating in an area and most important of all, what a particular area can yield without creating an imbalance in the fish population. I realize that this is a tall order, but perhaps something can be done to prevent a recurrence of this situation next year.

COMMENT ON LICENSE VOTE

The result of the votes on a saltwater license put you in the same position as our legislators are today. As in the case of issues before our elected representatives in Albany and Washington, the saltwater license proposal got only a small percentage of your readers interested enough to mail a free vote in. It then appeared that the readers who subscribe to L.I.F. and are most likely to be well informed on the proposal voted in favor of it, but the large silent majority, represented by those who occasionally pick up a copy of L.I.F. on the newsstand, was against it—as were the business interests who worry about how many fishermen there are now more than about how many fish there will be five years from now.

Our legislators, faced with such a result, nowadays tend to give in to the silent majority and business interests—which is why we still have no sound energy program, among other lacks.

We would suggest that L.I.F. keep

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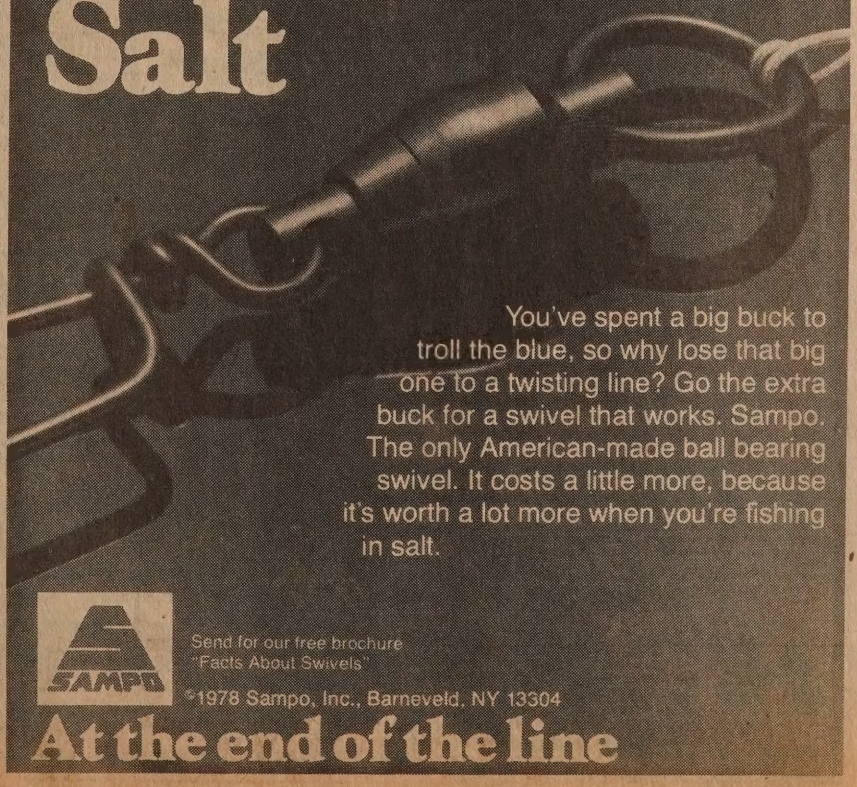

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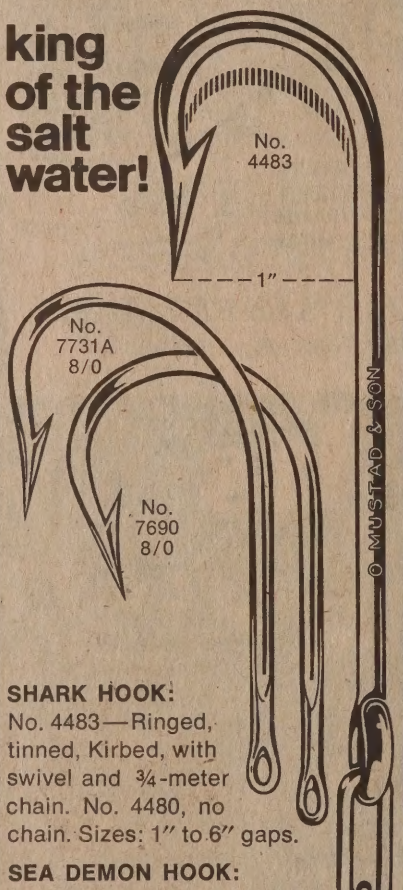

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giving its readers information on the conditions of the fisheries and what has been done for freshwater anglers thanks to license fees. Eventually, the attitudes can be changed, ideally before action is taken without real input from the saltwater fishermen. *Frederick S. Lightfoot, Greenport, New York.*

THANK YOU!

This is an open letter to express my thanks to you and the whole staff for doing such a great job of serving us fishermen out here. A couple of week ago, I was putting all of my copies of The Fisherman in order by number, volume and date, when I noticed that I had six copies missing. I wrote to The Fisherman to tell them of this and immediately I was sent the six copies. This only goes to show that you really care for us out here. Thank you very much and keep up the fine work. *Fred Fiagano, Bronx, NY.*

We appreciate a letter like this because it tells us you care, too. Sure, we slip up now and again and we can count on our readers at those times, too, to tell us we fouled up. We publish letters of both praise and admonition to show we ain't perfect and we know it, and to demonstrate that the lines of communication within our "family" are wide open. W.A.M.

TIDES & SEASICKNESS

I would like to applaud, as it were, your article on the tides. It was very interesting, and most comprehensive, much more than I had had in my physics classes. However, I didn't quite comprehend, from your diagram, the voidance of tide on the top and bottom of your diagram, as a centrifigal force would be exerted in all directions. Although, I am sure, you're absolutely correct, and the above is only in the nature of a question.

By the way—I remember your paragaph in reference to the misery of seasickness. I believe I had a way of avoiding and perhaps even curing it. As a young man, I was terribly prone to "mal de mer" and I had tried almost everything, but to no avail. Nonetheless I went fishing and at times I fished in a horizontal position, laying on the deck with a dropline instead of a rod.

I finally discovered that it was lack of my usual, normal amount of sleep which I remedied by going to bed earlier and I abstained, totally, from any food, drink and smoking, until somewhat past midday; that is, until I had acquired my sea-legs, so to speak.

The individual trying this method will find that there would be an all consuming desire to eat (nature desiring fuel for the unwonted activity) which must be resisted for an hour or so past the midday meal.

I have also tried the above on some of my friends with complete success and the enjoyment, they told me, was worth the unusual "pangs" of hunger that they suffered, for a little while. Of course, one must not go with winds or more than about 15 miles per hour, in any case.

The seasick pill, could be optional and perhaps even be an added psychological palliative, although it dulls the senses and makes one sleepy. *A. T. Schiavello, New York.*

You're right; the explanation did not make it clear why there was a tide void at top and bottom. The earth spins and thus there is centrifugal force as you point out, but the point about forces as related to tides is that those forces are not equally applied. It's relative and the water will move to those areas where forces pull the most and away from areas where the forces are weaker. Your tips on seasickness are good ones although they won't help me since my mal de mer is caused by inner-ear problems. Nonetheless, our readers would do well to follow your advice. Thanks for the kinds words and advice. W.A.M.

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When it comes to biting off its nose to spite its face, the State Department has no equal. The recent announcement of a boycott of Mexican tuna is a perfect example of the incredible ineptitude with which our foreign policy is so often handled. According to a radio report, it seems that the Mexicans had the "effrontery" to seize an American tuna clipper fishing only thirty miles off their coast—well within the Mexican 200-mile limit. Of course, if a foreign vessel fishing for anything but tuna

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

U.S. BOYCOTT OF MEXICAN TUNA SHOWS DANGER OF TUNA POLICY

were to do the same thing off one of our coasts, we'd take similar action. However, the big American corporations and unions involved in high seas tuna fishing managed to exempt tuna from the 200-Mile Limit bill—with the result that the State Department considers our law to be effective all over the world, and backs up flagrant violations of the laws of other countries.

You can imagine the reaction of the American public if a nation without a 200-mile limit decided that they had the right to fish for anything they wanted within our 200-Mile Limit simply because their domestic law didn't provide for any fisheries protection beyond three or twelve miles. Obviously, we wouldn't permit such a violation of our laws—but the State Department seems to feel that other countries must bow and scrape to our own peculiar interpretation of the law. There was a time, many years ago, when we could have taken such actions against weak Latin American countries and not had to worry about the consequences. Unfortunately, that's no longer the case. We are becoming ever more dependent on the mineral resources of other countries, and it so happens that the countries most frequently insulted by the State Department in regard to the tuna issue are Mexico and Ecuador—both awash in that most precious commodity, oil.

Needless to say, we've had a good many disagreements with Mexico over the years and there is no reason to expect them to do many favors for us in terms of oil and natural gas production. However, they are still our best bet in the event of another flare-up in the Middle East, and to insult their national sovereignty in order to protect a private business disregarding their laws is sheer folly.

What we're basically faced with is a policy adopted by Congress and enforced by the State Department which uses some scientific fact to justify an immoral arrangement with corporations and unions, even though the net result of that policy is the creation of anti-American feeling in Latin America. In the long run this is apt to cause significant harm to the American public, especially since those "little" countries now have the means with which to fight back.

There has been an increasing realization in Congress that the Fisherman's Protective Act and the exclusion of tuna from our 200-Mile Act are involving us in situations that seriously disrupt our relationships with otherwise friendly countries—simply in order to satisfy the desires of a relatively small, but politically powerful industry. Unfortunately, there still aren't enough Congressmen independent enough of that industry to change the law. Meanwhile, the State and Commerce Departments (which could be very moderate in their approach to these laws) are even more in the hands of the special interests—and enforce the law with such energy that it's hard to believe that this is the same government whose response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was to punish American farmers with a grain boycott and American athletes with an Olympic boycott, but to do nothing significant to hurt the Soviets!

As readers of this column are well aware, I've long advocated the elimination of the tuna exclusion in the 200-Mile Limit Act. While that exclusion has served to protect the invasion of other countries' waters by the powerful West Coast tuna industry, it has also permitted the Japanese to longline within our zone on the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico—completely negating the effort to improve bluefin tuna stocks by placing limits on American fishermen, and resulting in the killing of thousands of billfish caught incidentally. The position I've taken is hardly unique. Indeed, it's similar to that advocated by every sport fishing group I'm aware of, and also the commercial tuna interests of the East Coast. Unfortunately, the great numbers of individuals supporting elimination of the tuna exemption have proven ineffective in fighting the influence of the West Coast tuna lobby—and even the best interests of American foreign policy are no match for that powerful lobby.

The little shred of scientific evidence used by those who try to justify the present American position is that tuna are highly migratory oceanic species which cross the boundaries of many countries and spend a good deal of time well outside of 200-mile limits. Certainly, these are fish which could best be controlled by an international body. The basic problem is that international bodies rarely have the power with which to take effective actions, if indeed they have any desire to do so. That characterization certainly applies to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the organization supposedly dealing with the bluefin tuna. Furthermore, even the Law of the Sea Conference Draft on the tuna situation envisions a system that will provide host country preferences and authority when tuna are within the 200-mile limit. Worst of all, some of our NMFS administrators refuse to concede that some tuna species (such as the Atlantic bluefin) aren't completely oceanic in nature and could be better controlled by the few countries on this side of the ocean in whose waters they reside.

Of course, most of those who argue for the international status of the tunas conveniently ignore the fact that all other truly oceanic species (such as billfish, sharks, dolphinfish, wahoo, etc.) do fall under the U.S. 200-mile jurisdiction—and I haven't heard a single voice raised in opposition to that fact. This leaves no question in our mind, or that of other countries, that the tuna exclusion is simply a means of ensuring that the West Coast tuna industry will be able to continue making big profits—even if those profits create conditions that may prove very costly to the American taxpayer in the future.

Dr. Frank Carlton, of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, had a recent editorial on this subject which bears repeating: "It remains evident from this most recent debate (on the Studds proposal to put Atlantic bluefin tuna in the 200-Mile Act) that the distant water tuna industry and the Departments of State and Commerce continue to hide behind buzz words like 'traditional fishing grounds' and 'full utilization' in their effort to maintain the charade that highly migratory species should be treated like international common property. They are saying, in effect, that because of the technical superiority of the U.S. tuna fleet, they should have the right to harvest tuna off the shores of other nations such as Mexico and Costa Rica; that having this 'might' gives them the 'right' to do so. Even the less perceptive industry representatives recognize the degree to which they prostitute their intellect and their honesty in supporting such a position. The better government representatives must feel a deep, angry, growing frustration at being forced to defend a policy which only makes them personally, and America as a nation, appear ridiculous. By persisting with this nonsensical policy, we are paying a price for tuna we cannot afford and that no fish is worth."

Election time is coming up and now is a good time to pin your Senators and Congressmen down on just where he or she stands on this and other important fisheries issues. If we won't take the time to show our concern, the tuna industry lobbyists will continue to have their way—and a sad chapter in American history will remain open.

Last summer I wrote an Old-Timers' article similar to this in which I told of two exceptional fluke-fishing days. Many readers responded, telling me they enjoyed both stories, but as one fisherman put it: "C'mon now, Matt. Don't try to tell us guys all you ever had were two good fluke days out of the hundreds I'm sure you made over the years." Well, to that let me say I've had many fine fluke fishing days throughout the years, but

One More Exceptional Fluke Day...

truly none were as outstanding as those two. After all, as good as fluke fishing was away back then, for a fisherman to catch more than seventy-five fluke in one morning was just about unheard of. (At least, I believe this to be so.) And to deck nothing but doormats on another trip (nothing smaller than eight pounds), was not only remarkable, it was unique even for those times.

Most of our party boat fluke fishing those days was done off Sandy Hook, with an occasional foray around Sea Bright, usually around the old pound nets. Most of the fluke we caught averaged between one-and-a-half and two pounds. A fisherman was pretty certain of nailing a four or five pounder, and someone during the day was assured of a pool winning doormat. Perhaps several of these big fish would be decked, all fairly close in size, say about eleven pounds. It was a rare day when the pool winning fish was less than ten.

Which brings me to large fluke.

The biggest fluke I ever saw landed weighed a shade less than twenty pounds. It was caught on a handline by a first-time lady angler in early September, 1931 while we were anchored over the crumbling bones of an old wreck lying off Sea Bright.

Now that fluke was a monster—there's no question about that. But one day I saw one even larger than that. Unfortunately, it was never landed. And surprisingly it wasn't hooked off Sandy Hook or Sea Bright, but off good old Norton's Point, Coney Island. I say "surprisingly" because we had never caught fluke larger than six pounds in that area, although each summer rumor had it that huge tackle-busters prowled those grounds.

To set this story straight, I'll have to reach way back in my memory for this one: July 20, 1932, a Wednesday. How can I be so precise as to the exact date and day? Not difficult at all. I've got it right before me in one of my old record books. Which, incidentally, is a good tip for you young fishermen. Keep those records! They'll prove invaluable some day in the future—just as mine are to me today.

But anyway, as I was about to say before I sidetracked myself, what I'm going to relate occurred a long time ago, but it is so deeply etched in my memory, it seems to have happened only last week.

During the early part of that summer of 1932, my fishing buddy Artie Leidecker became acquainted with a sinker bouncer who worked with his dad. This fellow owned a neat little twenty-footer which he kept docked in Canarsie and used exclusively for Jamaica Bay and Rockaway Inlet fluke chasing.

This was all Artie had to know. He made it a point to give this fellow his undivided attention. It was shameful to hear him tell it. Eventually, Artie introduced me to this fisherman, a real nice guy whose name I recall was Jim Sheppard. We two fish-happy kids went overboard showering him with glowing tales of Sandy Hook's great fluke fishing. There was good reason for this. Few fishermen those days owned their own boat and we had no intentions of allowing such a golden opportunity to slip by. I guess we worked poor Jim over pretty good.

I'm sure, though, that this lily-gilding was really unnecessary, for there never lived a fisherman worth his salt who wouldn't take a gamble on a promise or a prospect of good fishing. And Jim was no exception. The upshot was that we made plans to leave at daybreak two days hence—the memorable Wednesday which was to produce the biggest fluke I've ever seen.

We left Canarsie the instant a tinge of gray showed in the eastern sky, our enthusiasm urging us to hurry lest we lose even one golden moment of the glorious fishing we expected. By the time we reached the inlet, making but one fast stop at Louis' Pier to pick up a supply of live killies, it was full daylight; but much to our great disappointment, we found a fairly good breeze making up from the south. For party boats this posed no problem, but for a twenty-footer, it was something else.

Once we got outside the inlet proper, it wasn't too bad, but we knew it might become worse at the next tidal change, so Sandy Hook was definitely out. What to do? It was Jim who suggested Norton's Point, telling us that if the wind freshed, we could always make it back to safety in jig time. That was enough for us. Away we went.

Because of that south wind, we began our first drift a mile or more offshore, which allowed plenty of fishing time before it would become necessary to run back for a new drift.

Well, as it was in those days, we didn't have to wait long for action. The belly from the first fluke to come aboard was cut into strips and a slice placed on the hook along with a live killie. This was the preferred bait of ocean fluke fishermen of the time. It was also responsible for most of the doormats caught those days.

Somewhere during our third or fourth drift, we hit into an area which produced a super-abundance of fluke—the three of us frequently having a fish on at the same time. Eventually we drifted away from the action and Jim started up and ran us back, jockeying the boat into what we hoped was the same spot.

It was right then when it happened.

I recall Artie saying: "I just missed a big fish!"

Jim, who was fishing alongside Artie chimed in with: "That's just fine, kid. You miss a big fish and I'm stuck on bottom." Because of the rate of drift, Jim's line peeled off the wooden sidewinder at a pretty good clip, and when it looked as if it soon would be depleted, he clasped the reel's handles tightly and attempted to break off the rig. Which he did—or so he thought.

Jim began to reel in and once again he was snubbed short. "Damned if I'm not hung up again," he complained in exasperation. "What's going on down there?"

It was Artie who supplied the answer. "You're not stuck!" he cried out. "You've got a big fish on!" And sure enough, I could see the rod arc and suddenly come to life, taking on a set only a doormat fluke can make.

Artie and I quickly reeled in to allow the struggling fisherman every advantage. While I offered encouragement and kept a weather eye on the boat's drift, Artie stood close by with the long-handled net. It was touch and go for a few minutes and I still recall hearing the sidewinder creak with strain. This, we agree, was some fish. Minutes passed, but slowly and surely Jim gained the upper hand.

I guess a full ten minutes went by before the fish surfaced, coming up a dozen feet out from us, where it floated in its exhaustion, undulating slowly with the swells, it enormous mouth open and weakly shaking its head in feeble efforts to dislodge the hook. Jim stopped reeling, stunned at the sight. Artie and I stood mesmerized. Never had we seen a fluke this size. The fluke caught by that lady angler less than a year before was actually small potatoes compared to this one.

"Good God," Jim muttered.

"Reel it closer," Artie said, reaching over, "and I'll try to get the net under it. Careful, now."

But it was a lost cause. There was no net on board large enough to accommodate that fluke. Jim reeled the fish close enough, all right, and Artie succeeded in getting

(Continued on page 17.)

NORTHERN KINGFISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE NORTHERN KINGFISH, ALSO CALLED "WHITING" IS A SOUTHERN FISH THAT COMES TO THE NORTHEAST IN SUMMER FROM MAY TO OCTOBER. THEY SCHOOL UP IN THE SURF AND BAYS, OFTEN RUNNING WITH WEAKFISH AND CAN GO TO 2 LBS. AND 17 INCHES. BASICALLY A SMALL SILVERY FISH WITH A CHIN BARBEL, LONG DORSAL SPINE AND AN "S" SHAPED TAIL MARGIN.

KINGFISH CAN BE VERY ACCOMODATING, STRIKING RAPIDLY, FIGHT HARD AND BITE ANY TIME OF DAY ON ANY TIDE. LIGHT TACKLE IS MOST OFTEN USED.

KINGS HIT JIGS IF "SWEETENED" WITH BAIT SUCH AS A SQUID STRIP WHICH ALSO TAKES THE NEIGHBORHOOD FLUKE, SEA BASS, WEAKS ETC.

KINGS ARE EASILY SCALED, FILLET LIKE A BANANA AND ARE EXCELLENT TABLE FARE.

KINGFISH SURF RIG.. LOOK FOR THESE FISH NEAR HOLES AND GULLIES IN THE SURF.

12 LB. TEST LINE

SMALL WIRE HOOK

KINGS RANGE THE BEACH FROM MAINE TO FLORIDA.

FISH FINDER ARRANGEMENT WITH 2-4 OZ. PYRAMID SINKER.

12"-18" LEADER

FLOUNDER HOOKS CAN BE USED

SQUID, BLOOD & SANDWORMS, CLAM, SHRIMP, SANDEELS - ALL GOOD BAIT.

FROZEN MOSSBUNKER CHUM SUNK UNDER THE BOAT ATTRACTS KINGFISH AND ALL OTHER FISH OF SUMMER THAT ROAM THE BAYS & INLETS.

AS OF THIS PICTURE STORY KINGFISH HAVE BEEN SCARCE IN GREAT SOUTH BAY AND ELSEWHERE. YEARS AGO WHEN THERE WERE FEW WEAKFISH AND NO FLUKE, KINGFISH SCHOOLS SAVED THE DAY FOR MANY FISHING BOAT SKIPPERS WHO WERE BIG ENOUGH SPENDERS FOR A CAN OF CHUM. DOUBLE HEADERS WERE COMMON AND THE PASSENGERS LOADED UP WITH TASTY KINGFISH DURING THE FLUKE FAMINES.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

LURE HISTORY

THE FIRST LURE? I don't know which cave man invented the first fishing lure, but it was probably some hairy dude who realized that a game fish would be fooled into striking a shiny piece of shell or a cleverly fashioned portion of bone. Throughout history man has continued to make refinements in fishing lures and they have become better and better, until today's artificials represent the ultimate in sophisticated baits. Bones were carved in graceful swirls so that they would wiggle when retrieved; then the Portuguese dory fishermen perfected a lead bottom jig which evolved into the modern diamond jig. Somewhere along the way the bucktail was developed and it became a standard tackle item. Today, there are many anglers who believe that the bucktail jig is the most versatile and best all-around artificial lure. So effective are bucktail lures that they were included as standard equipment in some survival packages.

THE NEAR PAST! In the last century and in the early days of this one, fishermen still used fashioned pieces of shell as lures. Even bones continued as favorites and persist today, in fact, among remote Eskimos who jig them through the ice. The shells used in our neck of the woods were typically oyster because the inside mother-of-pearl reflected light smartly and the natural curve of the shell often produced a most desirable action. At the turn of the century, these lures were often trolled behind sailboats with handlines and typically, bluefish were the game fish that responded.

ALL TOO BRIEF! The above introduction is not intended as a treatise on the subject, and I have knowingly left major holes in the chronology open to the sun. However, I offered it as a prelude to what will follow and to briefly demonstrate that many primitive cultures and modern western man, too, were curious about the possibilities of catching game fish without the aid of live bait. Although some may consider these early efforts as crude, they were actually quite remarkable when one considers that the men who designed and made these lures did so without the benefit of modern plastics and machines. In that light, it was a noble effort and the fish they caught was ample testimony to their craftsmanship. But what of the modern craftsman? True, they have the technology that derives from our mechanized society, but they have chosen not to use the technology to make old ideas easier, but rather to create new designs that are more effective.

MEN AND THEIR LURES! We can think of many great lure makers from our own backyards. Certainly the rigors of trying to catch great numbers of game fish in our waters has brought out many fine lure makers to test their abilities. I'm sure that I will not mention them all; but a brief list would name Charlie Graves, the great surf fisherman who designed tins of incomparable fish-catching character; Don Bingle, whose tubes are legend. Much the same can be said of Captain John Secora, who developed tubes of many sizes and color patterns that are known to catch fish when other look-alikes will not. Also, at Montauk we think of John DeMaio. John's sand eel jig has proven to be a deadly weapon in man's arsenal in bass fishing. Still another sand eel jig of different design and purpose has been created by old friend Mickey Chiarenza of Tri-Fin Tackle. Mickey has other tackle items to his credit, too. How about Leo Cooper's Goo-Goo Eyes plugs, and those of Stan Gibbs? For years, these plugs were the pride of the class. Closer to home, we think of Don Musso and his Super-Strike plugs. We've used these plugs with consistent and outstanding success. The Danny Plug is also a plug of Long Island and its many versions have proven themselves again and again. My apologies to any great lures and their makers that I have left out—it wasn't intentional—and to the many unknown producers who stay squirreled away in their basements producing quality lures for private consumption. To these people we offer our thanks, even though we may never have a chance to use your noble lures.

IN THIS COLUMN! All of this is a way of introducing several specific examples that we'll discuss today. All of the above lure histories are equally fascinating and by selecting only a few for discussion, I don't wish to indicate that other products are less great. However, the examples we'll cite in this week's column have special meaning for a variety of private reasons.

LAURI RAPALA. Lauri Rapala was born in 1907. He did most of his fishing in the lakes of Finland and never intended that his lures be effective saltwater baits. In fact, he designed the lure originally to imitate a minnow that was either wounded or in some way defective. Lauri noticed that game fish would seem to preferentially attack minnows that were defective, but what he did not realize was that he was watching and interpreting was the culmination of millions of years of evolution. The game fish attack the defective prey because it is easiest to capture and, in turn, the prey chose members of its population that were not as well adapted as others. On the other hand, the predators who were very good at spotting and capturing the defective prey would have a greater chance at survival. In the beginning, Rapala made his lure out of pine bark; today they are made of balsa. Thus, the lure is light, floats high, and yet is reasonably strong. In the early days, Rapala would glue foil from candy and gum wrappers onto the carved wood lure bodies and then he would draw scales, eyes, and other features. Obviously, Rapala believed that the attention to detail was important. Perhaps in the cold, clear lakes of his native Finland, the game fish were able to see the detail easily, but in our saltwater coastal zone fish often see a lure for a very brief time. Although color and markings may be important at times in our waters, most of the time action is far more important.

RAPALA COMES TO THE U.S. The lure first appeared in this country in the middle of the 1950s, when they were sent here by Lauri as gifts for people living in Florida. The lure spread to the upper Midwest where it became very popular for lake fishing. Around 1960, the first request came from the United States for large quantities of the lures for sale here. Things had come a long way from 1936 when the lures were first invented and by around 1960, many of the townspeople where Rapala lived were busily making the lures. The popularity of the lure grew rapidly, so that by the end of the 1960s millions of them were sold in this country alone. Lauri Rapala died in 1974 at the age of 67, but left behind a legacy of fishing excellence. Rapala wasn't a great businessman who dreamed up the lure from behind a big fancy wood desk. Instead, like so many other great lure designers, he was a fisherman who observed both fish and nature and one day realized that there was a better way to catch fish. In the beginning and throughout his life Rapala was a simple fisherman. Today, the lures are still made with the skill of experienced hands in Finland and that's how Lauri would have preferred it. If there is one thing that all great lure designers have in common, it is the fact that they will not compromise on quality because they know that it is the strict attention to quality that makes each lure a consistent fish-catcher.

AL REINFELDER AND THE ALOU EEL. Al Reinfelder and Lou Palmer are the originators of this great lure. Al was a teacher and a devoted fisherman. When you devote yourself to fishing for striped bass, you inevitably search for a better mouse trap. Both fishermen realized that bass like eels but to carry a good supply of live eels around, especially on the beach or when fishing the bridges, can be a monumental problem that overshadows the eels' reknowned abilities as a striped bass bait. New

plastics were available after World War II and refinements produced plastics with such a variety of characteristics that a lure made of such a product could be quite durable and flexible at the same time. The design of the leadhead was a major problem because the two fishermen were seeking a specific slinky action. At first they used the lures for their own fishing, but as the word spread the demand for them increased. They began producing the lures as a "basement" operation, but later they sold the rights to the lure to Garcia. If you have never used one of Al and Lou's originals, you have missed a great experience in angling. However, many fishermen soon discovered that fish did not automatically jump onto the eel. Unlike some plugs which need only to be retrieved with little creative input from the fisherman, the Alou Eel needed the hand of a skilled angler. Many a novice gave up on the Alou convinced they were overrated and of little value. However, to the credit of Al and Lou, the inherent fish catching qualities of the lure also help to create many fine, skilled fishermen. For those who stuck with it and experimented, while keeping their eyes and ears open, came the rewards of fine bass and great skill. Thus, although some were turned off the lure, others became quality fishermen. Most beginners make the mistake of retrieving "rubber" lures too quickly and many added a rapid jerky rod action. Although there are times when this technique is the only one that will take fish, more often than not the fish respond best when the angler allows the moving water or the bottom structure to assist the lure as it wobbles about. Bass are basically lazy fish and the angler must realize this before beginning. The bigger the bass get, it seems the lazier they get. Thus, work the rubber lures around structure by letting them settle towards the bottom and then swing into productive territory. The rate of retrieve is governed by the strength of the tide and other factors. The angler must learn to "feel" the lure "work." It can't be taught and it's hard as hell to demonstrate, and the best approach is to get out there and throw the lure again and again until you begin to associate a certain feel with a specific rate of retrieve. This, coupled with a few big bass on the beach or in the boat, will prove to anyone how great a plastic eel can be.

DON MUSSO AND SUPER STRIKE! Just another plug, you say? Not so! A close examination will demonstrate that although many plugs which appear to be very similar in appearance, such as the Danny, the Atom, the Gibbs, the Super Strike, and others, they all differ slightly with respect to action. I wish we had room for the stories of how all these great lures were developed, but most of the stories behind the classic plugs are well known and so I thought of taking a few lines to talk about Super Strike. Here is a lure that is still manufactured as a basement operation. The originator still performs the steps of production. Some other plugs have been and/or still are in mass production. Sometimes that is an advantage, but experience has proven that it can be a great disadvantage as well when quality control and original specifications are forgotten.

OLD FRIEND MICKEY CHIARENZA. I know Mickey for about seven years now and right from the start I found him to be an open and genuine person. I came to admire Tri-Fin lures first, but soon found that the man behind the lures was made of the same quality stuff that goes into the lures. Mickey's story has been told enough times before so I won't recount it again, but there is one interesting characteristic of the development of lures by Mickey that is different from most other local inventors. For the most part, these geniuses have stuck to one or at most two designs. However, Mickey's pursuit of great lure designs has pushed him to constantly develop new models. Many experienced fishermen may remember him for the WhipTail Eelworm, and the Tri-Fin Eels, but the product line today includes several dozen items and the newcomer to saltwater fishing may be more familiar with the sand eel jig. For Mickey, diversity and constant research has been the watchword and that has meant more ways for the fisherman to catch a fish.

OTHERS?? IF there are any other local lure designers with a story to tell, drop me a line. I know our readers would find your story interesting, too.

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"204 Fisherman"

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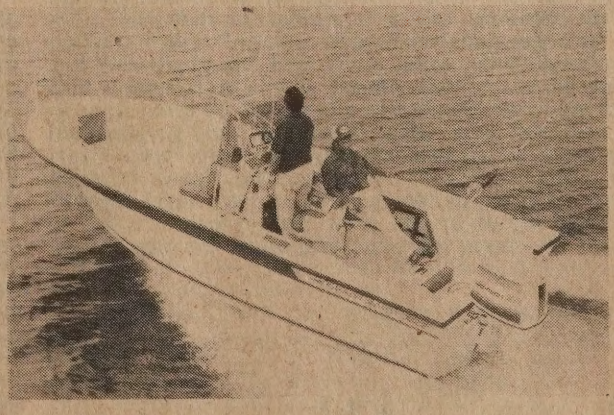

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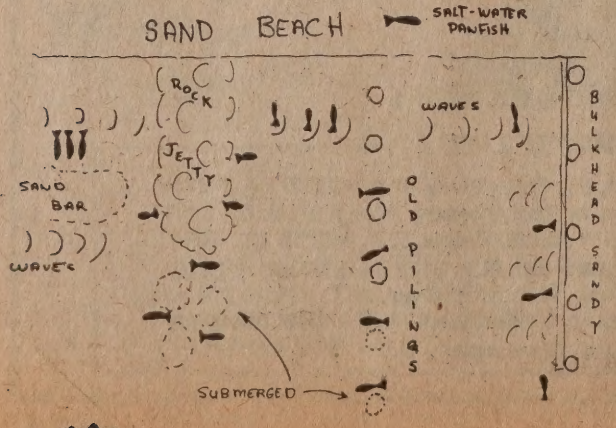
Fishing can be very funny. You can get out there on many occasions where you think you're going to knock 'em dead, and you've got all to do simply to get a hit. Well, that's the way it goes—or is it? I have a hard time not catching anything whenever I go; however, I certainly don't catch exactly what I want every time I go. That is, there are a lot of little fish in the area where most

Staten Island Panfish

fishermen ply for bigger game fish. These little fish draw little attention from the fishermen, so they multiply and are usually in good supply. What I do whenever I'm having a bad day is to fish for these little guys, the saltwater panfish such as: the sandy porgy, the lafayette or spot, the kingfish, small blackfish, sea bass, the eel, and the snapper blue. There's one member of this family missing and I certainly wish that he were present because he was so cooperative and good tasting. That's right—the blowfish. In any case, these little fish are good to eat and can be caught in the hundreds. Maybe they're not as highly touted as the guys who feed upon 'em; but for me, they've saved a lot of days where I'd have done anything to catch a bigger fish. In this script, I'll go into where these little panfish hide, what baits you should use to lure 'em to hook, tackle requirements, most preferred baits, and places around Staten Island where you can find them.

Let's begin by looking for the places these little critters call home. They're probably right there at your feet. They're never too far offshore or away from some protective structure. This is the case because these fish would be eaten by larger fish should they wander out too far from an object that can offer them protection. They stay right in the wash; they hide behind sand bars; they lurk near pilings and rock piles, and they shade themselves near bulkheads and piers. They're always on the lookout for an easy meal and they're quick to pick off any dislodged particles of food wherever they may be.

Most guys won't believe it, but right there in the first wave, there's an awful lot of fish. Kingfish (northern variety, not to be confused with the southern king mackerel. In the south, these little fish are referred to by the name whiting), lafayette or spot, sand porgies, and snapper blues all make this type of water home base. That's because the turbulance created by the waves offers them protection and an opportunity for a quick meal of anything dug up by the wave itself. Should you fish in close to the beach, you could load up on this type of fish.



The jetty at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor is a good spot to try for saltwater panfish.

. The reason that most guys aren't aware that these fish are here is because they usually cast way out and when they reel in, they come through this area at a real fast clip. Still, they get hits and don't know it. Snappers will grab anything coming through this zone and with their very sharp teeth, they can do quite a job on bait that the unsuspecting angler thinks was attacked by some smart game fish. So he changes bait, throws the old bait at his feet, and casts way out again. Now, he's fed the little guys and he's failed to take advantage of their presence. At times like these, I'd break out the small freshwater gear and I'd have a ball.

Other spots that harbor panfish are found all along rock jetties, and the rocks that have fallen off of them over the years. Here, the others mentioned are joined by such new species as the blackfish and sea bass. Of course, catching any particular fish is pretty impossible. You've got to accept whatever bites. Should you get a sea bass, you can also consider yourself lucky, because although caught around rocks offshore, only seldom do they make any inshore pile of rocks their home. At the jetties, these fish will hide all along the base of the rocks where they're protected from bigger fish and they can readily dart out and grab any morsel of bait that passes their noses.

Near bulkheads, fish react the same way as near rock piles. However, add another variety to your list now, and especially if that bulkhead is around some lagoon or inland waterway. The species is the eel. Commonly caught at night, eels are scavengers and can be caught all day long, too. Good fighters, eels are fun to catch on light tackle and they make terrific baits for other game fish species. Also, they are favored by some who simply love to eat them. Finally, you can catch these panfish just about anywhere. Around pilings and old piers you just can't miss.

What types of baits should you use to get these panfish to strike. Well, believe me, the bait isn't that important; but what is important is the size of the bait. Remember, these are small fish, often under eight inches long. Therefore, you've got to use little pieces of bait. In fact, bait up in miniature: that is, with clam foot or squid, I cut them into small strips and hook 'em once as if fluke fishing. With sea worms and clam bellies, I tend to string the bait on up the hook as if perhaps baiting for whiting or ling. If the fish are swallowing the bait where it becomes impossible to get them off and set them free alive, I often turn the strips around and fish the wider end off the hook so that when the bait is grabbed, the harder end of the bait to swallow is taken in first and the business end of the bait is in a position to hook the small critter somewhere around the mouth.

The rigs that are used to accomplish this fishing are of a variety. First of all, remember that the overall tackle requirements are light; therefore, the rigs that you'll be using will be light in nature, and the weights required to keep them where the fish are will be light and triangular so that the motion of the waves, which will be enough to

throw them around won't be able to drag them out of the water. The rigs are best described as a flounder fish finder rig and a modified whiting and ling rig. Of course, for the snapper, you can use some sort of flotation or fish a bottom rig. These fish will hit just about anywhere and on anything. However, the most preferred way to get them is to get them with a float.

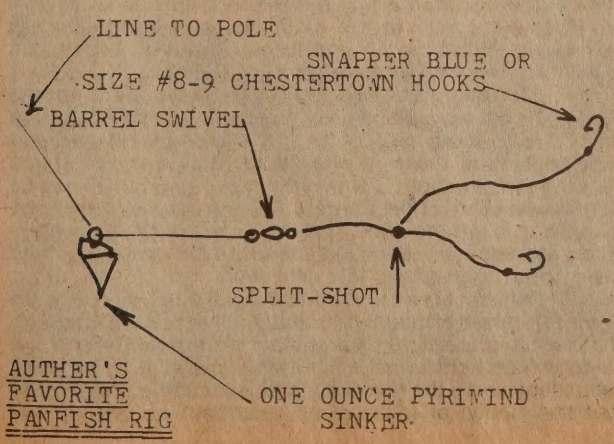
Let's look at the first rig. It's made by first running an ounce triangular sinker up your line. Then, add a barrel swivel to your line so that the weight won't be able to slide off. Then, run about an eighteen inch leader off this swivel and end it with either a snapper blue hook or a Chestertown hook. This is because both of these hooks have long shanks that aid in the safe removal of fish you want to release. Now, about halfway up this leader, attach another length of eighteen inch leader to the original leader using a split shot to secure it there. You should knot the end of the second leader so that it can't pull free from the first leader. Use a similar hook on this leader and you're in business.

Fish this rig by casting out some distance and then by retrieving it very slowly along the bottom. If no hits are registered, let the rig remain in close to you, especially if it's in some area we earlier touted as a good area. Then, if after a short while, move some and try again. Another thing that you can do is to ladle some bait out into the water right in front of you. This is a sure way to encourage some panfish into your area. Also, don't hesitate fishing near, but not in, the area where people are swimming. You may not expect them to be there, but they are. This is probably because the people are disturbing the bottom and there's a lot of free meals floating by in the area.

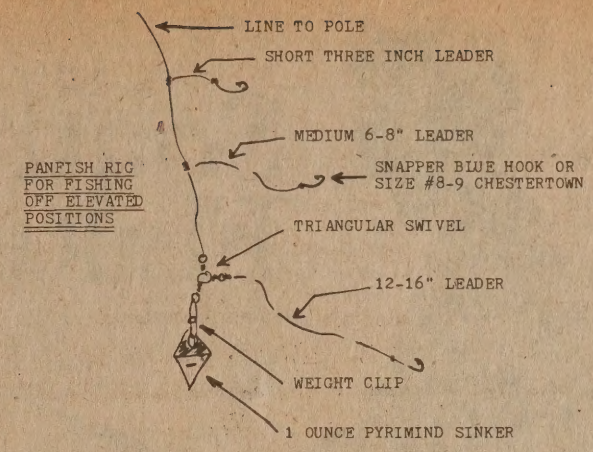
Another rig that you can use is a bottom rig used to catch whiting. It's made this way: attach a triangular swivel to the end of your line. Attach a weight clip and a one ounce pyramid sinker. Above the weight, attach a three inch leader to your line. It should be about eighteen inches above the weight. Then, about a foot above the weight, attach another leader of about six to eight inches. Then, off of the triangular swivel itself, run a twelve to sixteen inch leader. Put either snapper blue hooks or Chestertown hooks onto these leaders and bait up. Remember to keep your line taut when fishing this rig, since if it loses tension, or bounces, you'll know that you've just had a hit. And, I doubt very much if you'll ever get the opportunity to put the pole down.

Fish this rig off of rock piles and raised bulkheads or piers. You'll get a good spread of bait and you'll give a lot of fish ample opportunity to strike at one of the baits. You can also cast this rig out, and as you retrieve it, all the baits will be spread and very near to the bottom. Each hook will have a chance to score with the bottom feeders while in this position. Then, once you've got it in, lift the bait up and down under you and you'll give the rock dwellers a good look and a chance to strike. If after awhile it becomes obvious that the little rascals are proving to be very stubborn, simply allow the baits to rest on the bottom for awhile. They've got a way of finding such baits, and they won't be there for a long time.

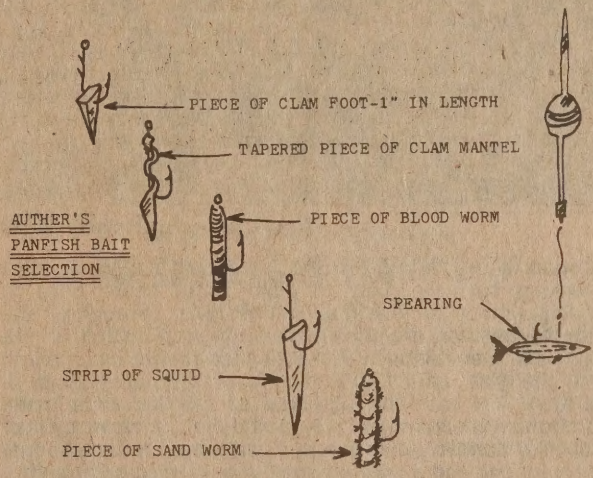
The final rig I'd like to describe is the floating rig.



AUTHER'S FAVORITE PANFISH RIG



PANFISH RIG FOR FISHING OFF ELEVATED POSITIONS



AUTHER'S PANFISH BAIT SELECTION

Simply drop a bait down about two feet under any type float and you're ready to go. I'd also recommend that you use a split shot somewhere between the float and the hook. This is so your bait will get down to the fish faster, thereby allowing the float to properly signal a strike. The hooks, again, should be long shanked and the bait that's most preferred under such a contrivance is a spearing.

How should you hook the spearing? Well, there are several possibilities. First, you can elect to use the entire fish. You can either hook the bait with the hook bent around toward the head or the tail. The best way to determine which way to penetrate the hook is to just guess at first. Then, depending upon how the snappers are taking the bait, you can change your approach. You can also elect to break the fish in half, at which point you have the first problem back again. However, you can't truly go wrong if you remember to keep the bait suspended in a horizontal position under the float.

When fishing the float, don't fret at missed hits. Just hang in there and fish will soon start coming in. In fact, this kind of fishing is so much fun that it's the kind of fishing that you should break your kids in on. That is, the action can be fast and furious, and the fish are usually very cooperative.

Places to fish around the Island are everywhere. One of the best is in Great Kills Harbor. Here in the Federal Park there are jetties and bulkheads. There are also a lot of crabbers here all the time and they keep bait in the water; so a lot of panfish hang around. Also, at the inlet to the harbor there are a lot of rocks and places for panfish to hide.

Finally, if you go to New Dorp Beach, you can't miss on catching panfish. For here, there's a jetty and a long, sandy beach where you can always catch snappers and spot. Often a striper or two are caught here on the worm baits intended for some spot; so don't pass up this place, especially if you are not too familiar with the Island.

South Side Fluke Fishing

by Gerald Hahn

Western angler Nelson Stone works on a south shore fluke.

Around the beginning of June, small boat fishermen start checking out the inlets to most south shore bays in anticipation of the yearly arrival of fluke. Throughout the month, however, it will be a slow pick, but by July, these large summer relatives of the flounder settle down along the channels and flats, and fluke fishing begins in earnest. Not too long ago, decent catches were made throughout the summer, but **good** fluke fishing today is of a shorter duration. July is now a better month than August to try for one and a half to two pounders in some quantity.

Nonetheless, even good fluke fishing requires some effort. They are not as easy to catch as their spring relatives. When flounders are in, for example, almost everybody does well because the fish are densely packed over a wide area and with little effort, even an inexperienced angler can catch twenty flounders from an anchored boat and consider it a fair day. But catching twenty fluke is another matter entirely.

In the first place, anglers must choose from among at least four different kinds of baitfish: sand eels, spearing, killies, and snappers. Any one of these can make or break a day of fluke fishing. The last few seasons have been marked by an increased use of sand eels because they are in much greater abundance—everywhere, it seems—than any other baitfish and "matching the hatch" is as appropriate to a saltwater bay as a freshwater stream. Shiners or spearing last a little longer than fragile sand eels and with two flashing bands along their sides, they are probably the most visibile baits in the water. Both of these baitfish, however, are sold in a frozen state and must be handled gently. Killies or mummichogs are surely prime baits for fluke, as well, especially when fished live. Durable and deadly, these stout green fish work best, particularly when some lively baitfish action is necessary to stir a sluggish fluke out of the sand. Some fishing stations along the south shore bays sell killies and provide a floating bait box to keep them alive. Finally, a less used bait, the snapper, can be deadliest of all. Some of the largest doormat fluke are taken every season on live-lined snappers. But you must acquire this bait yourself and July is a good month to catch five inch snappers, just the right size for bay fluke. Bring along a light spinning rod and reel with four to six pound test and tie on a small metal lure, no larger than half an ounce. Make your cast from the boat and retrieve the lure at a relatively fast clip, working the rod tip continuously. As soon as you catch a snapper, transfer it to your fluke rig and put it in the water. Snappers can also be fished dead and even large ones, surprisingly, will attract average size bay fluke. Although each south shore area has its preferred bait, it is wise to get at least two of the baits mentioned, as well as squid with which they are combined.

Fluke fishing in most south shore bays is best done with light tackle, a six or seven foot spinning rod and a small reel filled with eight or ten pound test. Most people favor a high-low rig for fluke, consisting of a three-way swivel tied with improved clinch knots to the main line and to a four inch leader of thirty pound test. A snap swivel below with the same knot takes care of the one ounce sinker, as well as the bottom snell. Some people prefer to raise the bottom hook about three inches above the sinker and tie a dropper loop on the leader. Hooks vary from 2/0 Carlisles and O'Shaughnessys to Beak and Claw patterns snelled to three inch leaders of thirty pound test. Ideally, the top hook, which goes through the remaining eye of the swivel, should clear the bottom hook to prevent tangling. However, most fluke will be caught on the bottom hook and single hook rigs are just as good. Some anglers add chrome flasher blades and red beads as attractors, whereas others prefer an unadorned rig. Because fluke are erratic, whenever I fish with one or two people, we try a variety of rigs and if one type works best, we can all switch accordingly. But when the fishing is really slow, I find nothing better than a single three inch snelled hook on a dropper loop, tied to the main line about three inches above the sinker on an end loop. No heavy leaders, no spinners, and no hardware for wary fluke.

Frozen baits can be rigged several ways. First, let the bait thaw out a little and then, keep it in the shade. In the heat of a July day, sand eels and spearing will burst and disintegrate to mush in a brief period. Next, hook one through the eyes or through the mouth and out the gills before impaling it near the tail. Another method is to hook it once through the eyes, lips, or head, which allows the body and tail to undulate in a life-like manner. When fluke are really aggressive, this will work better, but many times, they will strike it short and cut the bait in half. Live killies or snappers work better than frozen baits when lip hooked or impaled lightly in the shoulder between the head and dorsal fin. But if fluke strike them short, as well, then it is better to revert to the first method for frozen baits. All these baits should be sweetened with a half inch

by three inch pennant shaped strip of squid hooked once near the wide end. Peeling away the speckled skin of a squid increases the luminosity of its white flesh. A similar strip cut from the belly of a fluke or flounder will also work. Most people discard the head and tentacles of a squid, but I have caught some large fluke with this part on slow days. Sometimes a small metal lure or a white leadhead bucktail tipped with squid will take fluke when bounced along the bottom, but generally, lures work better for doormats in deep water.

Unlike flounders that barely move off the bottom to take a worm, fluke are active predators and like to take their baits on the run. Despite their awkwardly flat appearance, fluke are agile swimmers and aggressive fish. They like to hide on the down-current side of a rise or sand bar adjacent to a deep channel and face into the current. When a baitfish comes struggling over the slope , fluke leap up after them. They will also chase baitfish over shallow sand flats in a running current. For all these reasons, most people drift for fluke. After selecting a likely area, the boat is taken upcurrent and the engine is cut. About fifty feet of line should be let out and periodic jigging will enhance the bait's movement. When a hit occurs, subsequent drifts should be made over the same spot until the action stops. It is best to shorten renewed drifts to save time and cover the most productive spot. Sometimes, a long drift is better, however, especially when it takes you across several rises and dropoffs, or over the flats. On occasion, I have taken several fish this way on a single drift.

Nowadays, with more fishing competition and fewer fluke around, some experienced anglers have reverted to still-fishing for them. Moving to an offbeat spot that has produced in the past, they anchor up and lower a weighted chum pot filled with ground mossbunker. The baited rig is worked as close to the pot as possible, jigging it a little. When fluke get a taste of the oily chum, they follow it upcurrent and pounce on the baited hook.

Some fluke smash the bait immediately and hook themselves with a solid jolt, followed by a strong downward pull. With these fish, you have little to do but reel them in. More often, however, all you detect is the faintest nibble and when this happens, it is better to lower the rod and perhaps let out a few feet of line before attempting to set the hook. When the weight is felt, a short, slow lift of the rod is the way to go. Although a fluke rarely throws a hook while it is in the water, it is one of the most difficult fish to land and a large net is essential.

If you failed to bring a net along for some reason, you can still boat your fluke—most of the time. Do not attempt to bring it over the side with your rod because a bobbing fluke in mid-air will surely be lost. Instead, hold the rod high and bring the fish as close to the boat as you can, but keep its head under the water. Then slide your free hand down the leader until it is a few inches from the fish, and without jerking it abruptly, lift the fluke out of the water and over the side in one smooth sweep. It takes practice—better to use a net.

A brace of bay fluke in the 1½ to 2-lb. class.

Because considerable time may be spent drifting and looking for fluke, a whole day trip should be planned. Avoid stormy periods and high winds because most south shore bays are shallow and the water becomes a vast home for tidal debris and sediment at these times. Also, you never know whether the fish will be more active on the flood or ebb tide and both should be fished. Many hitless hours can be spent before there will be some action. One such day, I fished with a friend from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. without encountering a single fish; not even a crab. But between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., we caught 15 fluke, several on every drift, until it was time to return the rental boat.

All the south shore bays have well-known fluke spots: Shinnecock's East channel, Moriches' Coast Guard Station, Great South Bay's Lighthouse, Reynold's Channel, etc. The bays also have numerous sand bars and flats, as well as slopes near deeper channels. Concentrate on one of the bays, learn the popular spots first, then explore other areas. While August is generally slower for quantity, it can be best for quality. Near the end of the month, some of the largest doormats are taken—fish over ten pounds—as they leave the bays. But if you want a decent catch these days, ten to twenty bay-sized fluke, try a south shore bay in July.

OLD TIMERS' CORNER:

AN EXCELLENT FLUKE DAY

(Continued from page 10.)

its head inside, but that was as far as it would go. The breadth of its body was absolutely too wide for the net's circumference. I'm positive that fluke weighed over twenty-five pounds. Its length was difficult to distinguish clearly because much of it was below the surface, but it had to be over three feet long—probably three-and-a-half. Like a young halibut, Artie said later.

What was needed to handle that fish was a gaff, but there was none on board. So we did the next best thing. Artie reached down, wrapped the upper part of the leader about his wrist, took a second hold close to the hook and attempted to lift the fish aboard. A neat trick if it works, but it rarely does with doormat fluke, and surely not with one of this size.

There was a sudden commotion, a few choice curse words from Artie, and the fish was gone, floating out beyond reach for several seconds before it recouped its strength and disappeared below the surface.

So ends the sad story of the largest fluke I've ever seen and you can bet it was a long time before I ceased dreaming of that particular fish.

Over the years, I've heard of similar fluke experiences. It is quite possible many sinker bouncing readers of this column have lost, heard of, or witnessed the losing of, a large fish in the long ago—not necessarily fluke. If so, drop me a line at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946, and let me know. We have a contest going for the most interesting story about old-time fishing, which, of course, includes the losing of big fish. The winner of each month's contest will receive a pretty nice Shakespeare spinning reel. It could very well be you.

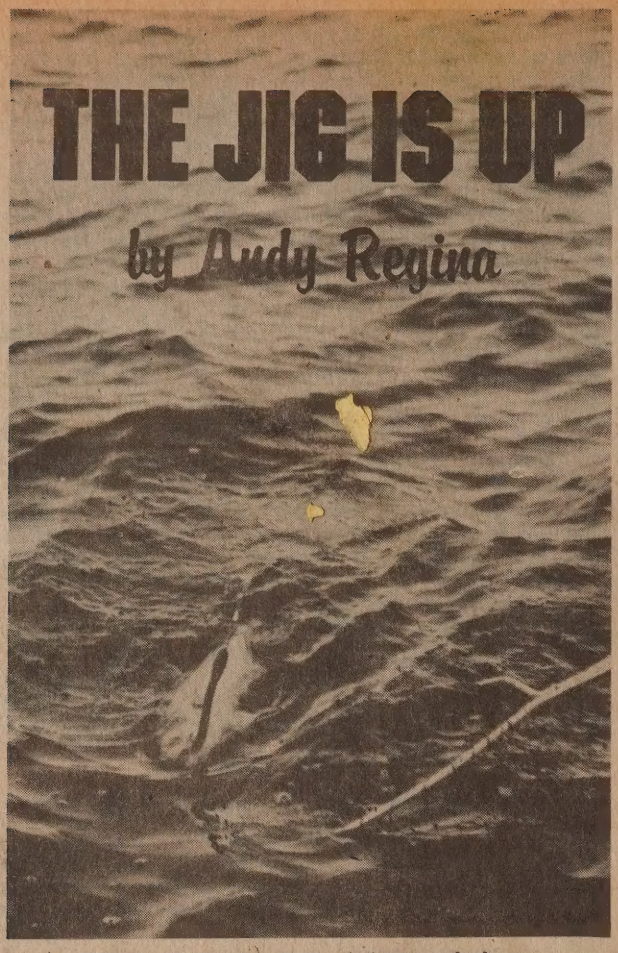
And speaking of winners, we have already awarded two Shakespeare spinning reels to date. Caesar F. Volpe of Island Park was June's winner. Mr. Volpe wrote a very interesting letter on striper fishing from the Long Island Rail Road trestle at Island Park during the early 1960s.

July's winner was Mrs. Helen M. Woerner of Bay Shore who told of her party boat fishing days with her dad in the long ago. A beautiful letter which brought back many memories.

All it takes is a few minutes of your time. How about it?

THE JIG IS UP

by Audy Regina



Tube or "banana" lures also imitate sandeels.

The fish struck solidly, stopping the jig in its tracks and putting a bend in the Lamiglas rod that proved that the design engineers of that company certainly knew about their stress limits. Fifteen pound test Ande monofilament sang a sweet song as it was stretched to piano wire tightness, harmonizing with the tune screeching from a tortured reel drag, as the strong fish made its initial run. Resenting the alien sting of tempered steel in its jaw, and the restraint of the almost invisible fishing line, the fish switched directions like a running back smelling the goal line and veered off to the left without missing a stroke of its tail.

This brought the fish directly off the bow, where I soon followed and played it free from worry, as we had left the majority of the other lines aboard that party boat that day safely in our wake. Though the tackle was considered light for party boat bluefishing, the fish wasn't too big, and soon succumbed to the killing flex of the rod and the energy-draining effect of a properly set drag. I easily swung aboard a five pound bluefish that beat out a final protest on the deck, drumming its tail in an angry tattoo, removed the jig and sacked the fish, before leaning against the rail and lighting up a cigarette.

So what's so new about catching bluefish on jigs, you might ask? And you'd be right, because there certainly is nothing new about it at all. Men have been catching fish with metal lures for centuries. Norse fishermen caught codfish on the Grand Banks with metal jigs centuries before Columbus discovered America. The Portuguese did the same thing from wooden dories up until recently, and metal lures were used by surfcasters in New Jersey in the Gay Nineties, heaving them out to sea on tarred drop lines that they coiled in wooden tubs.

Though the method may be old, the modern-day technique is diffferent—which is what it's all about anyway. If you stop and think about it, fishing is fundamentally the same today as it was the day some cave man decided to try to catch his fish by not spearing it in some shallows. Whether this guy used a bone hook or a wooden twig, affixed with either a tuft of fur, some feathers, or some natural bait, today we do basically the same thing. Now, with modern technology, we have excellent tackle, forged hooks, and a host of lures undreamt of only a decade or so ago. And our fishing techniques have been refined over the centuries, until we today are no longer the ignorant fumblers our ancestors were.

In one of the early Metal Ages—probably the Bronze Age—man fashioned metal hooks and metal lures for the first time, and we have actually only been improving on them since then. One of the earliest lures was a metal jig that has evolved into what we know today as the diamond jig. Now, there isn't a fisherman alive who hasn't seen a diamond jig—although there might be many who have never used one. This lure reflects light from one of the many flat facets it is made of, and this reflected light from a tumbling, hopping, fish-shaped object is what prompts fish to strike, in a mistaken belief that it is some baitfish.

This lure has to be given movement by the angler, and it was always done with a sweeping, up-and-down movement of the rod, causing the lure to yo-yo up and down in the water, or "jig," which caused the light to be reflected, which prompted the fish to bite. For lack of a better name, and because a child's toy was already called a yo-yo, this lure became known as a jig because of the technique it entailed; then was called a diamond jig because of its shape, and to avoid confusion with other types of jigs.

Think about it for a minute. Didn't your earliest uses involve this vigorous up and down jigging? I know mine did, and I go back a long way, remembering fishing trips for mackerel where this diamond jig was used in this way. Recalling other trips, I remember catching cod and pollack from Montauk, still using the same technique. One memorable day aboard Captain Bud Dorman's Viking Skipper (many years ago, when he sailed from Point Lookout), I decided to do a little diamond jigging, spurred on by the fact that six big bluefish already caught that day on bait weighed a bit more than one hundred pounds. You know the rest of that story, don't you? Instead of taking it easy, I caught so many more slammer blues (which I released) that Soon Captain Bud even tried it, sneaking a mackerel jig-rigged rod out of his wheelhouse.

Bringing my jigs along on a trip out of Sheepshead Bay, I envisioned amazed passengers and crew members once again, but it was not to be so. Those sharpies all had two rods apiece: one for bait fishing, and the other rigged with a diamond jig. That day was my introduction to the modern technique of diamond jigging, whereby the jig is dropped to the bottom and then immediately retrieved at a furious rate. If no strikes were had by the time the jig was retrieved about one-third up, the jig was quickly dropped down to the bottom again, and the whole process repeated once more.

Not only was the technique a new one, but the jigs had to be modified to be more effective. The treble hooks of purchased diamond jigs were removed and replaced with a single large hook, attached via split rings. Though originally conceived to facilitate hook removal from struggling finger-biters and to prevent big fish from gaining leverage against the jig and tearing loose, those swinging single hooks actually improved the performance of the jig while also creating the illusion of wiggling baitfish tails.

The successes of these early efforts created such a demand in tackle shops that lure manufacturers responded by making their jigs with built-in single hooks, affixed to a built-in swivel that left no leeway for fish leverage, thus eliminating lost fish due to tear-offs. Along the way the diamond jig started to become more streamlined too, soon blossoming forth in a new cylindrical shape that was slightly curved, or bent. These new shapes simulated real swimming baitfish better than the fluttering diamonds, which prompted additional modifications. Tri-Fin Lures created a jig with a plastic tail and a patented swimming head that could be purchased in a variety of colors. Bridgeport Lures created a bent, cylindrical jig that has a ..

highly-chromed finish.

The reason for all this creativity was the resurgence of a local baitfish called sand eels. This baitfish actually burrows in the sand to escape predators, but gets scared and flushes upwards. For some reason this baitfish had been relatively scarce, but came back with a vengeance. Some marine biologists attribute this to the declining temperatures of our waters, maintaining that the sand eel now finds our water temperature compatible. Other scientists say that it is our slowly improving water quality that brought the bait back; while still other scientists maintain that it is merely a normal upward swing of their cycle, probably abetted by declining stocks of other bait—such as mackerel and mossbunkers.

Whatever the reason, this prolific bait creates huge, dark clouds in the water as schools of millions of them travel to and fro. With such a proliferation of one particular type of bait, is it any wonder that game fish find it simpler to feed upon them, rather than seek out another type of bait? Even the ubiquitous winter flounder—not generally known as a predator—has recently been discovered to be gorged with sand eels on occasion, even though sand eels are not normally part of the flounder's diet.

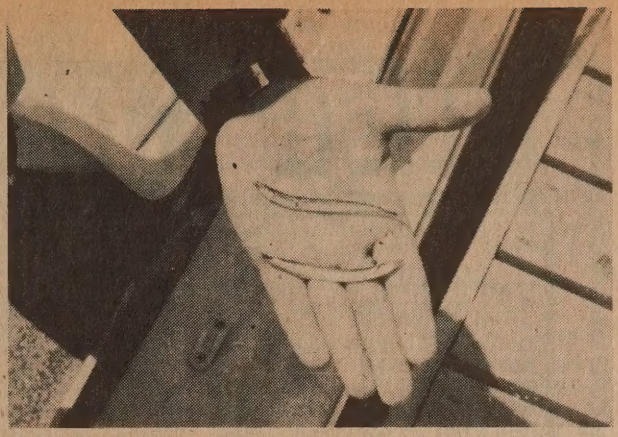
Now, perhaps, you can see the reason that this new-fishing technique is so effective. Not only do the new jigs look like sand eels, but that rapid retrieve imparts the same movements sand eels use, spurting up off the bottom to escape predation. Today, it is quite often common practice for party boats fishing for blues to use no bait whatsoever, sticking solely to the jigs that work so well. In fact, this technique is perhaps most effective from party boats especially, because the greater amount of jigs actually being used at the same time more closely resembles a school of sand eels.

The technique involves locating a school of bluefish on electronic depth recorders, stopping over that school, then lowering your jig to the bottom, whereupon it is immediately retrieved upwards as fast as you can reel. Without electronic assistance, this technique would not be quite as effective because you may be fishing for fish that are not there. Naturally, if there are no bluefish (or weakfish, or striped bass) in the first place, you just ain't gonna catch any. Not only that, but blind jigging not only becomes boring and tedious, but sheer hell on the muscles, prompting strong men to relinquish it in favor of fishing with bait.

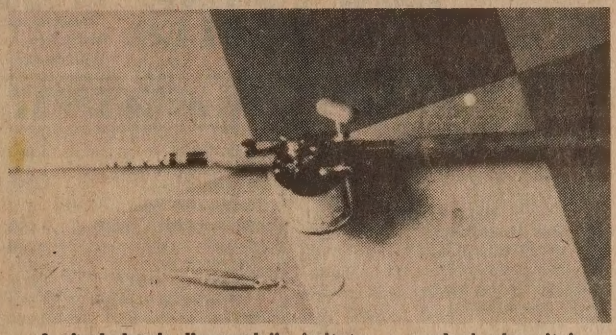
Although this particular technique may be fairly new to boatmen, surfcasters have been familiar with it for years. Called "squidding," it involves casting the lure out as far as possible, or perhaps just beyond a visible school of feeding fish, and then retrieving the lure as rapidly as possible. This rapid retrieve keeps the lure high in the water, in the strike zone of the feeding fish, whereas a slow retrieve then would allow the heavy metal lure to drop too deep to be effective. Because the lures used then were known as tin squids, the whole technique was called squidding, becoming so popular that many line manufacturers of that time even put out a special line to be used for this technique, one that would not burn the thumb of the surfcaster. Naturally this line was called squidding line—what else?

Anyhow, whatever name you want to call it, this fast retrieve technique with metal jigs really racks up fish; so next time out, give it a try. If you're new at diamond jigging, I strongly suggest that you consider sailing aboard one of the many party boats that now specialize in this technique. After a trip or two you may be able to master the technique, then can go out and try it on your own, aboard your own boat.

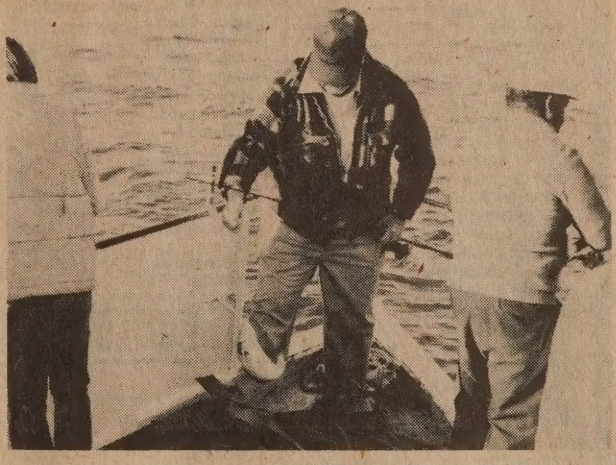
There are plenty of party boats that specialize in jigging for blues. Most of the Freeport and Sheepshead Bay boats do so, as well as several from Captree. On the Sound, the Klondike from New Rochelle and the North Star from City Island, as well as the Claire from the Bronx River, are all western Sound-based boats you can use. Further east, the Ever Ready from Huntington will serve you. Whichever boat you choose, you can really catch bluefish and have a ball doing so, 'cause I'm here to tell you that the jig is up!



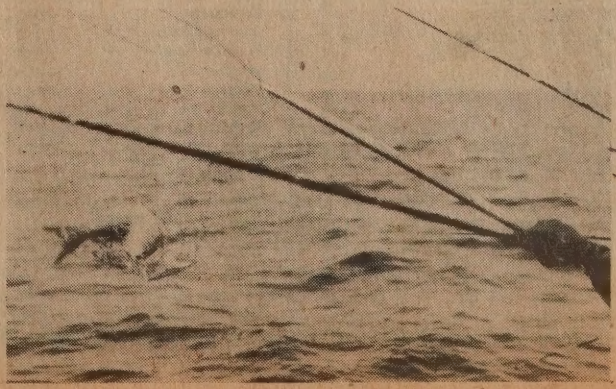
The bait that inspired a whole new fishing technique. Sandeels have resurged to become a prominent bait once again, due to cleaner waters and colder water temperature.



A single-hook diamond jig imitates a sandeel when it is fished properly.



The author decking a small bluefish caught on a Bridgeport Round Sandeel Jig.



A bluefish falls prey to a properly presented diamond jig.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	5:55	6:20	6:40	7:10	6:30	7:00	7:35	7:50	10:05	10:25	9:20	9:40	5:40	6:10	8/7
FRI.	6:50	7:10	7:35	8:00	7:30	7:45	8:25	8:40	10:55	11:15	10:15	10:35	6:30	6:55	8/8
SAT.	7:35	7:55	8:25	8:45	8:15	8:30	9:15	9:25	11:45	—	11:05	11:20	7:20	7:40	8/9
SUN.	8:20	8:35	9:10	9:30	9:00	9:15	9:55	10:10	12:00	12:25	11:45	—	8:05	8:25	8/10
MON.	9:00	9:10	9:50	10:10	9:45	9:55	10:35	10:50	12:40	1:05	12:05	12:30	8:50	9:10	8/11
TUE.	9:40	9:50	10:30	10:45	10:25	10:35	11:15	11:30	1:20	1:40	12:45	1:10	9:30	9:50	8/12
WED.	10:20	10:25	11:10	11:25	11:10	11:20	11:55	—	1:50	2:05	1:20	1:45	10:15	10:30	8/13
THUR.	11:00	11:05	11:45	—	11:50	11:55	12:10	12:35	2:10	2:25	2:00	2:25	10:55	11:10	8/14

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Nec Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/8	6:00	8:10
8/9	6:02	8:08
8/10	6:03	8:07
8/11	6:04	8:06
8/12	6:05	8:05
8/13	6:06	8:03
8/14	6:07	8:02

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/10	8/18	8/26	8/3

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	2:15	**8:55**	2:50	**9:25**
Fri.	3:05	**9:45**	3:40	**10:15**
Sat.	3:55	**10:35**	4:30	**11:00**
Sun.	4:45	**11:20**	5:15	**11:45**
Mon.	5:30	—	6:00	**12:10**
Tues.	6:20	**12:35**	6:50	**1:05**
Wed.	7:20	**1:25**	7:35	**1:50**
Thurs.	8:05	**2:15**	8:25	**2:35**

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
WEAKFISH

Capt. Jack Passi of the charter boat **Windy** reports good bluefishing south of Block Island. This super fishing is bagging specimens from 8 to 18 lbs. mostly on umbrellas. Sunday's charter to Block saw Hector Ocasio and family catch over 700 lbs. of the monsters. Jack is fishing locally and bagging weaks and smaller blues which are constituting most of the action.

Charter boat **Free Spirit** called to report one of the best offshore weeks that Capt. Frank has had in 2 years. The boat racked up a score of 7 makos with good bluefishing and weakfishing thrown in. Makos are now more abundant than last year at this time but the number of blue sharks is down from last year. Frank says he's now booking fall bass and bluefish trips. See ad for details.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Hustler III** called to say that on last week's canyon trip his charter got a big-eye tuna of 120 lbs., 7 yellowfin tuna between 40 and 90 lbs. and 5 albacore around 35 lbs. They also had 1 white marlin of 50 lbs. They lost a possible sword at night because of broken line. Sunday's bluefish charter south of Block resulted in 80 to 90 blue monsters coming over the rail running from 8 to 15 lbs. Gene says he still has a couple of open canyon trips available.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** told of satisfaction with the porgy action for customers Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Erving Garner of Queens fished Friday, Saturday and Sunday and put in the sack 311 porgies. Phil Westbrook of Brooklyn took a Saturday and Sunday toll on the porgies of 225. Fish are averaging a pound and better with catches of 50 to 90 fish not uncommon.

Mike Testa Jr. and friends Tony, Anthony, Craig and Dennis with a nice mako landed on the Montauk charter boat "Barracuda."

Pepi and Ed Beneduci with blues and pollack taken at Block Island on diamond jigs. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

Capt. Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** says he's been having excellent bluefishing fish 10 to 15 pounders working Block Island and Cartwright with jigs or with whole herring bait. The **Marlin V** which is fluking half-days, has been having good action to the tune of 4 to 6 keepers a man. Fish are running from 3 to 8 lbs. and the boat is working the rips with spearing, squid and sand eels. The **Marlin IV** is now doing all day bluefishing, sailing 7 a.m. daily.

Henry Colombi of **Star Island Yacht Club** reported a monstrous mako for Glen Elstrom of Connecticut on Friday. Taken aboard the boat Swivel, the huge shark tipped the scales at 745 lbs. The charter boat **Bronco** returned from a weekend Canyon trip with 3 big eye and yellowfin tuna up to 200 lbs. Henry said that marlin fishing was good up until Saturday with 6 of the billfish taken during the week southeast of the Point. Inshore, fluke fishing held up pretty good over the weekend particularly at Shagwon and Gin Beach. Weakfishing and bluefishing remained good at the Point with both trollers and jiggers taking their share of the fish.

Rich Hall of the **West Lake Lodge Marina** said that inshore fishing around the Point improved significantly this past week. Fluke continue on the upswing and good catches of blues and weaks have been the rule rather than the exception. The private boat Logan's Run had over 200 lbs. of blues and weaks two miles west of the Light over the weekend. The same Logan's Run, hooked up with a great white on Wednesday, estimated to be about 800 lbs., only to have the hook pull when the fish was almost within gaffing range. The battle was fought on a 50 lb. class outfit and the big shark took a fresh bluefish fillet. On Friday, the charter boat **Darius III** found a 328 lb. blue shark for Carmen Russo. The **Ebb Tide** returned with a pair of makos on Saturday from the Butterfish Hole. They checked in at 150 and 200 lbs.

Captain Gary Kiefer's charter boat **Barracuda** returned to the lodge with a 92 lb. mako on Sunday. The Salt Shaker IV had a fine catch of 15 weaks, 50 bluefish and 10 fluke over the weekend. Trolling at Midway on Saturday and Sunday, Rich Siegel loaded up on weakfish, but also had some blues. The biggest weak weighed in at 10¾ lbs., while his biggest chopper tipped the scales at 14 lbs. Sunday's catch totaled over 100 weakfish. Rich said that the weakfishing right now is fantastic and the fish are as thick as fleas.

The charter boat **Adios** called to report that the overall offshore picture this week was poor when compared to last week's fishing. During the week several white marlin were hooked and dropped and tuna were seen feeding on the surface southeast of Block Island but would not take any lures or baits. This is a day to day proposition, however, as the fish will be close-mouthed for three or four days and then the next day decide to feed. The inshore scene is excellent with plenty of weaks and blues keeping everyone busy.

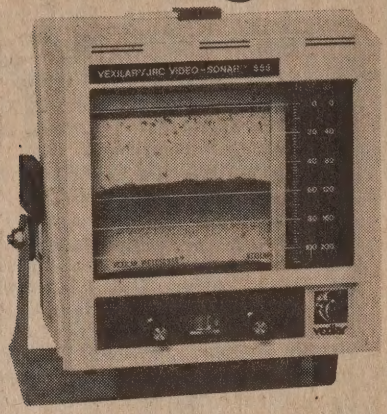
Captain Joe McBride of the My Mate spoke of good inshore fishing Thursday and Friday, with blues and weaks at the Midway buoy. On a shark charter Saturday, a 300 lb. mako was hooked and after several spectacular leaps, managed to shake free.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** announces that he now has discounts on any 2 full consecutive trips, day or night. This is a good way to save on gas money combining two trips for the transportation costs of one. The saving on boat fare is another way to economize.

Capt. Gary Kiefer of the charter

George Mcullagh of San Francisco hefts a 46 lb. striper which he and George Buck took along with 60 weaks on Ava jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

Seeing is Believing



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Fluke specialists Ralph Kuhland and George Kideris of Bayside were responsible for this exceptional catch of fluke up to 5¾ lbs. The pair left from Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station.

boat **Barracuda** called to say that the inshore fishing is still good with lots of weaks and blues. This is mainly a diamond jig venture. Offshore sharking has slowed down. Gary's charter this weekend bagged a 150 lb. brown shark and a 93 lb. mako.

Gone Fishing Marina tells of excellent fluking, weakfishing and bluefishing over the weekend. The private boat moved out from West Islip, boated 29 weaks, 50 porgies and 8 bluefish diamond jigging on the south side on Sunday. Arnie Sax and crew were into big blues and weaks on diamond jigs off the Point. Mid-way fluke ran up to 5 lbs. Arnie also had some stripes jigging off the Point. Chris Cuombo had fluke up to 4 lbs. fishing Gin Beach Monday morning.

The charter boat **Vivienne** skipper John DeMaio reported that Sunday's charter decked 77 weakfish and 14 blues on diamond jigs fishing close in.

The **Viking Fleet** reports continued very good cod fishing on the trips to Coxes Ledge. The night bluefishing trips are continuing super with jumbo Montauk bluefish. The porgy catches have increased greatly in numbers. High hook Friday was 70 porgies. The 2 half-day fluke trips are producing very decent size fluke working the local rips, though the numbers are not immense.

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SOUTH FORK
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BLUES & WEAKS

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported plenty of small porgies and weaks in Peconic Bay, specifically at Cedar Point. Thom said some anglers do very well, while others manage only fair catches. Worms and squid working best in this area. Gardiner's Island continues to produce fine action with fluke, porgies and bluefish. In Shinnecock Bay, boatmen have been doing a decent job with fluke to 4 lbs. in East and West Channels.

The **Capt. Clark II** reports good porgy fishing this past week on the wrecks in Peconic Bay. Fares are loading up with fish up to 1½ lbs. A few kingfish are being caught. On Wednesday Arthur Cochren of Bay Shore got 48 porgies and won the pool with a 3½ lb. weakfish. The summer weakfishing has been up and down with numbers changing from day to day depending on wind and tide conditions. The **Capt Clark** will be starting weekly trips to ocean wrecks for sea bass near the end of this month. Please watch column and ad for further info.

HAMPTON BAYS

Mickey at **Corr's Mariners Cove** spoke of very good fluke fishing but reminded that lots of shorts are still mixed in. The best fishing has been in east channel using sand eels and squid combos. Bill Kittell fished the c channel on Sunday and returned with 12 keepers up to 4 lbs. On the south side of Robins Island, small weaks in

Charlie Sammuy and Steve Sadicario with 179 flounder taken at buoy 39 on bloodworms. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Phil La Monaco, Mark, Michael and Joseph Merollo, and Michael Liquoni with the 5 lb. fluke that topped off their catch of blues, weaks, and flounder at buoy 43. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

the 2-5 lb. class and porgies from 1/2 to 1 lb. taking squid strips and worms. Richard Christerson aboard his Chief on the weekend, found a 310 lb. mako in 110' of water.

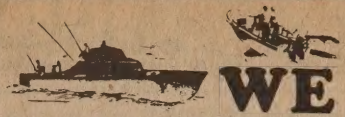
MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackel** spoke of a lot of fluke in recent days at buoys 41 through 44 and also in the west cut at the Inlet. Killies, sand eels and squid combos working best for fish up to 5 lbs. Flounder continue to provide solid action at buoys 29, 38 and 39. Worms and red-dyed clams work best with the fish being mixed in size. Plenty of small, 1-2 lb. blues roaming around the bay and also mixed in with the fluke catches. Outside of the inlet in 60' to 80' of water, due south plenty of blues from 6 to 15 lbs. on trolled umbrella rigs. Loads of snappers and crabs in the area. Offshore this past weekend lots of marlin were spotted and many rose to trolled baits from 110' to 180' of water, but none were boated. Last Wednesday, however, Ed Galloway, while chumming in 150' of water aboard a friend's boat, landed a white of 64 lbs.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported good fluke fishing at buoys 39 to 41 on the south side of the channel. Jim said that it appears a new body of the flatfish has arrived in the mouth of Hart's Cove. On Saturday, Jack Gleason and party had 22 keepers up to 4¼ lbs. on spearing and squid. Tony DiPalma Jr. and Sr. returned with 18 nice fluke from Harts Cove. The fish were taken on sand eel and squid combos Sunday. Small harbor blues northeast of buoy 42. Boatmen do very well with the fish when they show and also pick them up while fluking. An occasional weak is mixed in here also.

The word from **Hi-Way Fishing Station** was good fluke action from the Elbow to buoy 42 on killies, shiners, sand eels and squid. Some of the fluke range up to 5 lbs. Small bluefish are mixed in with the flatfish. On Saturday, one boat returned with 41 fluke, but the anglers failed to leave their names. Flounder fishing still holding up with better action on Saturday than Sunday. Buoys 32, 36, 38 and 39 continue to produce the best catches on worms and red-dyed clams.

Ramona at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** says that the fluking is simply terrific and the catches she tells about bear her out. Bill Ludgate and Ralph Esposito of Bayside had 21 fluke at buoy 39 on squid/spearing combos. Flounder also remains very good. Jerry Jodice, 5 yr. Ryan and pals Larry and Kevin from Garden City



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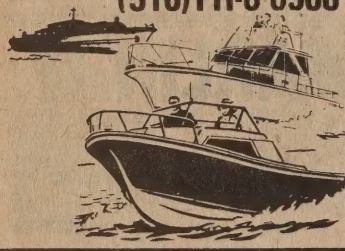

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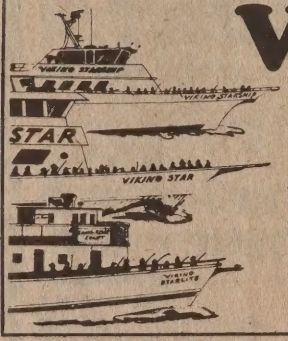

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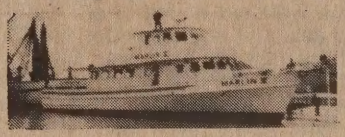

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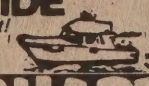

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had 40 flounder at buoy 41 on Sunday on worms. These were all big keepers and they bit all day on worms and red clam. Thursday 17 keeper fluke were brought in by a skiff customer fishing alone. Skiffs have been returning with catches of 14, 16, 21, 30 fish etc. so you can see that the catches of keeper fluke are very healthy. Blue claw crabs are starting to show.

John Porco of **Westhampton Marine** reported that he and Jeff Scanelli took 12 school bass on cast Hopkins Wednesday and Thursday evenings just inside the inlet. He said fluke fishing was generally improved in size and quantity with the best action being from buoys 39 to 41 for boatmen using float rigs and sand eel and squid combos. An occasional weak in the hole northeast of buoy 42 on jelly worms and small blues still being taken in the eastern sector of the bay. Westhampton Marine is sponsoring its annual fluke tournament August 9 and 10, so be sure to stop by and sign up. Prizes will be awarded. For more information, contact John at 288-4074 or you can reach the store at 288-1664.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stirtz's Fishing Station** says the crabbing is fantastic and improving daily from Smith Point Bridge to buoy 17 on rings and in traps. Fluke from buoy 17 to 23 up to 3½ lbs. on squid, sand eels and spearing, both tides. Lots of harbor blues at buoy 21 on Capt. Bill rigs. Nice weakfishing at the hole at buoy 17 with fish to 8 lbs. fished on the bottom with squid. A lot of porgies this weekend at the Smith Point Bridge fished on the bottom with worm and clam. Fish are mixed sizes. Buoy 19 still holding mixed bags of blowfish, sea bass and trigger fish.

SAYVILLE

Bob Lee of **Young's Fishing Station** said there are plenty of small weaks within a mile-and-a-half of the north side of the Bay. Small blues are mixed with the weaks, with the best fishing occurring in the early morning hours on small Hopkins and Salty Dogs with squid strips. Some fluke are being taken in the deeper holes and there has been a scattering of blowfish in the area. Plenty of snappers and crabs in all the local creeks. On Saturday, station regulars Dave Crocco and Mike Gardiner totaled 16 weaks and 6 fluke using Salty Dogs and squid

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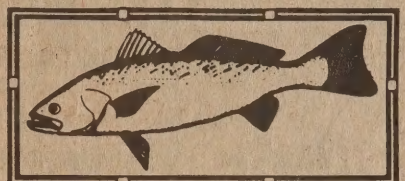

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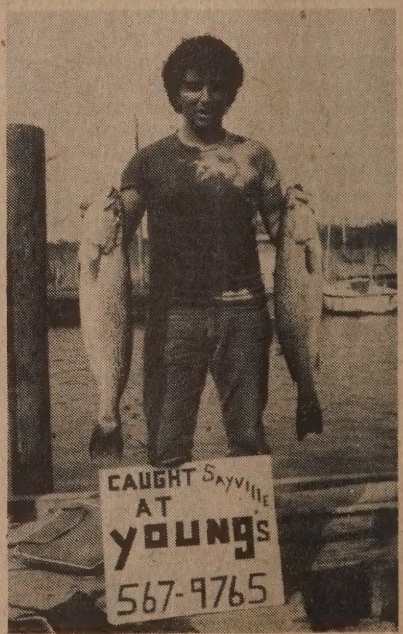
strips right outside of the Browns River jetties.

South Bay Fishing Station reports good catches of weakfish this past week with boats averaging up to 35 weaks. A major body of fish is from 1 to 1½ miles out from the station. Catches have been made on squid fished on the bottom. Fluking has been good around buoys 28 and 29. The Ocean Beach area has also been producing. Blowfish and kingfish have been showing along with the weakfish. Schools of blues have been running around the bay. Practically no one is getting skunked. Crabbing has been excellent and snappers are a good item. Paul O'Connell and Gary MacDonald boated 48 weaks and blues Sunday. Biggest weak was a 7 pounder. Gary Johnson and Mike Brown had 35 weakfish and a few kingfish late Sunday afternoon. Clam diggers have been catching weaks every day on the east line.

BAY SHORE

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported a nice catch of 12 fluke and one sea bass for Sabina Winter aboard the private boat Bugaloo on Thursday. Fishing was done at buoy 3 with sand eel and squid combos. On Saturday, the Bugaloo ran offshore of Patchogue and put away 47 choppers up to 14.10 lbs. All the blues were taken on Smokey's banana split jigs. The Surfside 3 Tuna Club hold their annual Ladies Day Fluke Contest over the weekend. First price went to Angie Naverez with a 2.12 fluke. Sue Walters finished second with a 2.9 and Kathy Sterlachi rounded out third place with a 2.7 lber. The youngest



Mike Ferrara hefts a brace of nice weaks taken on jelly worms at buoy 13. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

competitor in the contest was 2 year old Serena Sindone who caught her first fish ever, a scrappy little sea robin.One of the boats fishing the contest returned to the dock with 49 fluke which they took on sand eel and squid combos from the Coast Guard Station to the inlet. Also, Carl knew that both weaks and blues are being trolled daily in the inlet. Most of the blues run anywhere from 1-4 lbs.

Bluefishing off of Patchogue continues very good with a sprinkling of bonito and albacore starting to show. Fair to good crabbing in the area and very good snapper fishing from all the local docks. May be worth noting for snapper and fluke fans that Smokey receives shipments of fresh spearing each day.

The **Casey Lee** reports that for the last ten days fluking has been excellent. Catches anywhere from 150 to 300 keeper fluke a trip. Best action has been Sexton Island, Kismet, West Island on killies, sand eels, spearing and squid. The right tide is important and the last of the flood and the first of the ebb has been best. On Saturday 5 yr. old Glenn Termine Jr. had 10 keeper fluke but was aced out by his dad who had 12 keepers. The new leader of the Free Fishing For Life Contest is Bob Parson of Piscataway NJ with a 6 lb. 5 oz. fluke. A few weaks have been mixed in with the fluke catches and it is common to get a couple of weaks a day.

CAPTREE

Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** said that the open boats continue to enjoy very good bluefish action south of Patchogue. The fish range anywhere from 6-15 lbs. and are being taken on jigs in the daytime and bait at night. Fluke fishing this past week was good with all the usual baits working. Many of the pool fish taken by the boats are around 6 and 7 lbs. Plenty of snappers being caught off of the docks and for all you snapper fans, don't forget the annual Snapper Derby run by the bait station the 23rd and 24th of August.

Gina Campana shows off the 7 lb. fluke she brought to net on the Captree charter boat "Capt. Leo D."

The open boat **Capt. Bob Joseph** reported bluefishing still excellent day and night off of Patchogue. Fishing on Saturday was slower than t has been due to excessive boat traffic on the grounds. Jigs in the daytime and bait at night taking fish anywhere from 6-15 lbs. Sunday's catch came to over 400 choppers for 40 passengers.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Captain Rod** said they've been enjoying good fluke fishing anywhere from West Island all the way to the inlet. Small blues are mixed with the fluke and are being taken on the same combination baits of killies and squid or sand eels and squid. Fluke are mixed in size, with the pool fish usually around the 5 lb. range. Best fishing is definitely on the last part of the flood.

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reported they did very well most of the week with the fluke from West Island to the Inlet. Flood tide has been producing the best action and some nice fish are now mixed in among the catches.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports excellent fluking on all fluke charters this week, best on the last of the flood and the first of the ebb on killies, spearing, squid and sand eels. The boat is working from the Bridge to West Island with aciton best at Sexton Island. Fish are running mixed sizes up to 4 lbs. Day bluefishing charters are loading up with night charters being excellent also. Saturday night was just a pick. The boat is working the Patchogue grounds and it's jigging days and bait at night. Fish are running 6 to 8 pounders and smelt seems to be doing best at night.

The **Captree Queen II** informs us that the best fluking of the year so far was had this week on the 2 daily fluke trips, working from West Island to the Moses Bridge in the deeper water and channels. The fish are good sized with several 3 to 6 pounders on each trip. Hook bait is sand eels, squid and killies on both moving tides. The changes of tide have been especially good. Most of the fish are off the flats now and in the deeper water as is there habit in August. Night blues are more consistent now since last week's full moon, fishing the Patchogue area. Catches are anywhere from 200 to 300 choppers on most of the night trips. The first catches of the large fish are starting to show as evidenced by Friday night with Danny Reconda of Northport bagging an 18 lb. alligator. It has been mostly split-shot rigs but an increasing amount of fish are being caught on hard bottom with sinker rigs. A sure sign that the fish are settling in on the Patchogue grounds.

Capt. Roy of the charter boat **Blue Albatross II** tells us that Al Mlodynia

Matthew Kayal hoists twin pool winning 13 lb. 2 oz. weaks recently caught on the "Captree Queens II."

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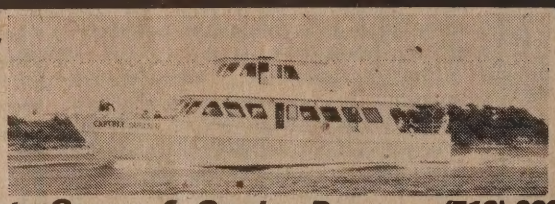

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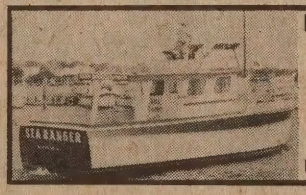

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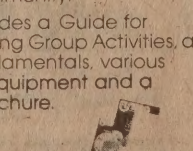

WRITE: Director,
AFTMA Sport Fishing Educational Foundation, 2625 Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL. 60005, or phone 312/364-4666

and group on Saturday morning's fluke action. They fished from the Inlet to the Lighthouse and gathered up 5 to 6 keepers a man. Saturday night's charter out waited the rain and buzzed out to Patchogue for a good night on bluefish in the 8 to 12 lb. range for Bill Alma and party. Sunday's charter for Al Ditzion and party enjoyed good fluke action fishing on both tides. Roy says that the fluking has improved greatly this week.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** says the bluefishing has been all jig action off Patchogue this week with catches strong and consistent every day. Fish are running 6 to 15 lbs. Night trips have improved greatly, all on bait. On Wednesday Bill Plum of Lindenhurst was high hook with 54 bluefish. Bill returned on Thursday and boated 49 more, claiming the high hook title again. Pool fish are generally 15 to 16 pounders.

Capt. Richie Westerlind of the **Capt. Richie** tells us that senior citizen and retired post office working John Meese of Hollis, Queens, had 13 keeper fluke Monday including a pool winner of 4¾ lbs. John returned Wednesday and had 12 more keepers. He was there again on Friday and had 14 keepers along with a pool fish of 4 lbs. 8 ozs. The skipper says John was fishing with a regular fluke rig with one medium size killie on the hook. The simpler the better, eh John? Fluking has really bounced back and there were 3 bonus weakfish on the boat on Wednesday. The fluke are nice size, mainly in the 2½ lb. class. Small killies have been the best bait.

The **Jib Fleet** reports that the fluking has taken a definite jump in quantities in keepers being caught. Capt. Marty is bringing in a new 65 footer very shortly. She will be fully equipped and the newest open boat at Captree when she arrives. She'll be sailing from the right side of the dock and it will be fluking every day and sailing night blues. Watch the **Jib** ad for details.

BABYLON

Captain Ron of the **Sea Bird** reported a good catch of fluke on Saturday for Ron and Tim Bessmer and friends. Fishing was done along South Beach to the Coast Guard Station with the best action occurring on the flood tide. A charter for sharks on Sunday yielded a 60 lb. brown and a 65 lb. mako.

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** the big news was the 116 lb. swordfish taken on the Babylon Tuna Club boat Blue Water by Danny Mungo. The broadbill was taken in the Canyon along with 61 true albacore and a mako of 150 lbs. Thursday night, the boat Jigsaw, skippered by Al Cataldo found a 438 lb. mako in 115' of water a little south of the NA buoy. Mike Smith, Bob Bunch and Sal Santiago rounded out the crew. Very good fluking this weekend in Fire Island

Inlet as demonstrated by Al Giglio and Joe Costa who totalled 56 fluke and 10 blues on Saturday. Paul Krause of the Sea Hawk loaded up with 200 blues in the 2-5 lb. class in the inlet this past weekend. Fish were taken on trolled umbrellas. Excellent bluefishing continues south of Patchogue and tuna and marlin spotted in 90' to 95' of water south of the inlet.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reported a catch of 30 fluke up to 5 lbs. for Howie and Bobby Levine, 11 of the flatfish were keepers. All were taken on sand eel and squid combos at Squaw Island. Fluke fishing was generally good all week at Four Corners, Goose Creek and Squaw and West Islands. Weakfish on worms at night at the bridges and lots of snappers in all the creeks and from local docks.

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station reports fluking has taken an upturn and that although there are still a good number of short fish around, there are a lot more keepers as well. Best area has been Great Island Channel, east of the 2nd Wantagh and drifting around Massapequa Cove. Good crabbing off the town dock. Snappers are showing. Fifteen to 18" blues in the bay hitting anything they can get their teeth on.

Sal at **Custom Tackle** reports that Skippy and friends on his boat "Skip Around" had nearly 100 bluefish up to 14 lbs. fishing SE of Patchogue in 90' of water on S&G diamond jigs on Thursday. Bob Tomacheski and friend had 8 weaks and 2 blues fishing in Jone's Inlet on S&G 2 ounce diamong jigs, known as A-17s. Snappers are starting all over the bay. Fluking has been good through the weekend with reports of a 6 lb. fluke caught just east of the Meadowbrook Bridge on a sandeel/squid combo. Jone's Inlet had 6 lb. weakfish taken this past week on S&G A-27 Get Bent lures.

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BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** reports lots of 2 to 3 lb. blues blasting through Jone's Inlet giving fluke fishermen quite a jolt. Some good size fluke in the Inlet though not in volume. "One nail" Minerva had 9 keepers out of 30 fluke on Sunday fishing Merrick Bay and he also killed 3000 green flies during the days trip. Snappers are all over the place on spearing and small tin.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** also informs us that the fluking has improved this week and that good catches are being made at Rowboat Alley and the Junciton of Rowboat Alley and Broad Creek. A 5½ lb. fluke was caught near the Jone's Beach fishing piers by Janet Todrick of N. Bellmore Saturday on a killie/squid combo. Lots of small 1½ to 2 lb. blues all around the Inlet and bays. Bellmore angler Marty Bright fishing on the boat "Bingo" bagged a 50 lb. mako over the weekend. Bass sharpie Dennis Newman dropped 3 big bass in the early morning hours this week on bunker fishing the back bays, so the fish are there.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** says that Cliffy Abrams and grandpa hoisted 26 keeper fluke fishing Baldwin Bay Saturday on the flood with killies, squid and spearing. Blue claw crabs have started in Middle Bay. Bay blues are zipping around Jone's Inlet.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

Captain Ray Hamel, skipper of the **Barbara Ann** had 3 dusky sharks and 10 big bluefish for a party headed by Shawn McDonaugh. The skipper fished in 130' of water, 190° out of Jones Inlet.

Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** reports that 13 yr. old Mark Horncastle of Levittown bagged a 6 lb. 8 oz. fluke Wednesday. Wednesday saw very good fluking and also schools of blues caught at the Inlet.

Fluking made a definite resurgance in the Inlet Sunday said Mike. On Friday Herb Schwartz bagged a 5½ pounder. The skipper says that fishing in the back creeks, channels and in the Inlet, the fluking has really improved this week. The half-day trips have been producing well with the morning trips working best due to the favorable tides.

The **Capt. Gary** called to say that fluking was excellent Saturday and Sunday both in the Inlet, Reynolds Channel and the back creeks. Saturday's half-day trip in the morning saw over 70 keepers taken. The afternoon half-day trip did slightly better. Sunday's full day trip saw over 50 keepers taken with John Martino of New Hyde Park grabbing the pool with a 3¾ lb. fluke. High hook honors went to Jimmy Lattimer with 8 keepers. A new body of fish has moved in and catches have greatly improved. On Thursday the boat will be sailing as open boat at 8 a.m., says Capt. Gary.

The **Capt. Al** reports that Friday's and Saturday's bluefishing was super duper and included a good catch of big weakfish up to 10 lbs. The bluefishing has been great all week long during the day, catches primarily on jigs. Friday was a slaughter with 300 to 400 weakfish taken aside from the blues. Al says there are loads of fish around. On these trips he fished around the BA and at the channels. The boat's night trips have been to the Mud Hole and various other near by areas and the fish are big. Good weather equals good fishing says the skipper. Some nights early in the week they stayed as close in as the bell buoy and bailed fish.

The half-day fluke boat **Capt. Bill** tells of a big improvement Sunday on fluke in the area with a new batch of fish showing up. The afternoon trip was one of the best so far this year, with a couple of 4 pounders hoisted aboard as a bonus. A good showing os good sized fluke on both morning and afternoon trips, 8 to 10 fluke a drift. On Saturday a charter had over 100 weaks and blues fishing Ambrose, weaks running 8 to 12 lbs.

The **Starstream II** reports super bluefishing every day fishing to the SE. Fish are being jigged from 7 to 16 lbs. and the catches are solid and consistent. Night trips have been very good on bait fishing due south of Jone's Inlet. All in all the bluefishing remains a dynamite situation.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that at the beginning of the week Capt. Ed Geyer on the **BF III** fishing east of the Inlet loaded up on blues to 15 lbs. Friday Capt. Sy fished SE of the Inlet and loaded up on blues to 13 lbs. On Saturday Capt. Tony DeLernia on the **BF II** ran to the channels and bailed weakfish to just under 10 lbs. The **BF III** went to the SE Saturday and had jumbo blues. Capt. Tony at the wheel of the **BF II** Sunday and Capt. Sy driving **BF III** both enjoyed the best day of the week with blues on both boats. Both pool

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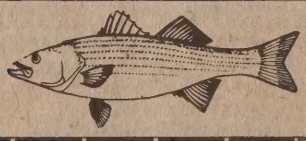

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Gene Muzyica, Oliver Cutshaw and Tom landed over 60 blues and a bass trolling off of Seabright aboard the Atlantic Beach charter boat "Kim."

fish ran in the 16 lb. range. Bill Rupino of Mastic and Bill Lucie of Peekskill NY will be getting Skillful Angling Awards. Saturday night Capt. Charlie Adams on **BF III** and Capt. Geyer on **BF II** blasted away at the blues fishing SW of Jone's. It's banana splits daytime and bait and chum nights. The skipper asked us to remind you that he will be running a big offshore cod wreck trip on August 21st. Reservations are required and the trips is strictly limited. Fare is $50. If interested, call quickly as space is going fast.

Capt. Bill of the charter boat **Ivory Queen** reports Saturday's charter for Howard Katz and group fished Patchogue and jigged up 30 monster blues from 8 to 14 lbs. fishing in 85' to 110' of water.

Capt. Joe Long of the charter boat **Nite Owl** passed on the information that his club, Hudson Anglers, won the tuna award in the Freeport fishing festival with a 108 lb. tuna taking the prize for heaviest weight and most fish.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that most of the Association boats worked over bluefish this past week and weekend. The **Atlantic** and **Nite Owl II** enjoyed fantastic bluefishing at Patchogue with fish up to 15 lbs. Many of the other boats had their bluefish locally and had good catches. Some fished weaks at Ambrose on both days of the weekend and scored well. The boats that trolled did excellent in all of the areas. A marlin was taken by the **Blue Water II**. Three whales were sighted off Patchogue.

Dennis Rizzati and Ray Jutt on Wednesday and Thursday fishing out of Jones had over 100 small blues on umbrellas. They also had 2 big weaks weighing 6 and 7 lbs. on live snapper. Small blues are being taken on spoons inside the Inlet. Blues and weakfish have been taken inside the inlet on lve snappers.

Lou Stalker of **Lou's Fishing Station** reported a very good weekend with the fluke in the vicinity of the inlet. Sand eels, spearing, killies and squid

all produced good scores of fish for boatmen working the area. Lots of small blues roaming around the inlets and channels with bigger fish outside of the inlet. Richie Koch aboard the Libra II had a 240 lb. blue shark, a 70 lb. yellowfin and two small makos on an overnight trip to the Canyon. On Saturday, the private boat Blue Waters returned with a 61 lb. white marlin. Artie Fiedler and George Vanderbeek took the billfish on a red and white feather meant for a tuna in the vicinity of the HA buoy. Also on Saturday, the private boat No Problem boated a tiger shark which weighed 473 lbs. It was taken southeast of the HA.

POINT LOOKOUT

Andy Chisolm of **Scotty's Marina** said that blues range anywhere from two miles off the beach on out and are being taken by both trollers and jiggers. Small blues in the 1-3 lb. range keep trollers and casters busy in the inlet. Lots of sharks offshore for chummers. Very good fluking in the bay this past week, although a lot of shorts are still being taken. Sand eels, killies and squid seem to be the best baits at this point. Chris Dehner weighed in a 7½ lb. blackfish which he took in the channel on Saturday while fluking. A few small bass being clam chummed at the Wantagh Bridge.

Capt. Dennis of the **Marie III** reports that Wednesday's trip for Skip Thayer of Powe Chemco Inc. had good to excellent bluefish jigging in the morning, fish running 4 to 6 lbs. Scott Thayer took the pool with an 8 pounder fishing in 60' to 70' of water SW of the Inlet. Unique catch of the day was a Spanish mackerel. Thursday night's charter for Ed Coysh and group from NY Telephone Co. fished 5 miles SE of Jone's in 60' of water and had a steady pick of blues between 2 to 5 lbs. Pat Burke took the pool. High hook was 15 fish. They also had a 40 lb. blue shark which was brought to the boat and released. Friday night's charter for John Carlberry saw a good steady pick on blues at the same location and the same size as above. High hook was Stan Hirsch of Canarsie Brooklyn with 12 blues. Fares are averaging 4 to 6 bluefish a man. Saturday's trip to Sandy Hook Channel saw a good catch of small blues in the morning. In the afternoon they had a good catch of weaks from 6 to 10 lbs., with 3 to 4 fish per good angler. This was jigging A27s without tubes. This charter was for Jack Martin of the Square D Co., Mineola.

LONG BEACH

Frank at **Long Beach Sports Marina** said everyone had fluke this weekend. Good fishing occurred from Duck Point to the Inlet. In addition, lots of 2-3 lb. blues are in the inlet and being taken incidental to the fluking. Jesse Salem and Eliot Hannan chummed up a mess of nice blues at the Cholera one day late last week.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckman's Tackle Shop** reported most of the attention in the area is being directed at the snappers which are abundant and increasing in size daily. Charlie called the crabbing locally okay. A good concentration of small blues in Reynolds and Macys channel. They are being trolled and also taken on small tins. Plenty of blues and weaks down along the Rockaways and the Tin Can Grounds being jigged and trolled.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al of **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** formerly Henning's, reported good fluke fishing at buoys 5 and 7 and near the Long Beach High School.

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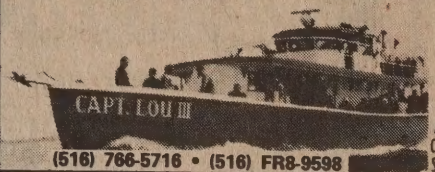

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Small blues 1-3 lbs. roaming up and down the channel being taken on baits meant for fluke and on small tins and umbrella rigs. At the Tin Can Grounds, sharpies have been loading up with weakfish on jigs and trollers have been doing well with bluefish. Jesse York ran his J. J. York to the Canyon this past week and returned with swordfish of 40 and 88 lbs. as well as a big eye tuna of 90 lbs.

JAMAICA BAY

The word from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** was that small porgies and plenty of snappers are keeping anglers occupied on all of the area bridges. Worms work best for the porgies. Crabbing in the area can best be described as worthwhile.

Sy at **Canarsie Sports and Tackle** says that off the Canarsie Pier loads of snappers are being caught along with a few keeper fluke. Sand porgies are starting. There are good fluke being caught around the Marine Parkway Bridge and around Flynns Knoll, Staten Island.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom Farrell of the charter boat **Dads Dream** fished the black side of Ambrose Channel on Friday and found a nice catch of blues and weaks to 11 lbs. for Gary Lindgren and Herb Koenig. On Saturday, Ed Nemeczyk and 12-year-old daughter Elaine chummed up a mess of blues to 15 lbs. in 120' of water. The trip was significant in that Elaine caught her first fish which turned out to be a 12 lb. chopper

Open and private boats have been slaughtering weakfish in the area of the Tin Can and the channels on Amber S&G ¾ oz. bucktails being cast, allowed to sink and retrieved with a slow retrieve. The Freeport and Captree fleets have also been doing a job in local waters and off Patchogue using 3 or 4 oz. S&G green jig tails brought in with a fast retrieve.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported good fishing on his afternoon trips. The boat fished the Tin Can Grounds and between channels this weekend to catch bluefish ranging from 1 to 14 lbs. on jigs and bait. These trips run Friday, Saturday and Sunday of every week for those interested in some night fishing action.

The **Dorothy B** has been enjoying good fluke fishing since Wednesday. Catches of 15 fluke per person were common on many trips to areas such as Sandy Hook Bay, Hoffman and Swineburne Island and many channels. Pool fish of 6-7 lbs. have been taken using spearing and sand eels for bait.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** spoke of fantastic blues, fluke and weak action in an area from the Great Kills Harbor Bug Light to Old Orchard Light and from buoys 12 to 20 in the

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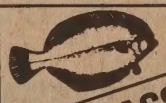

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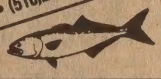

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PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** says while Saturday was a little slow on porgies, the fish were big. Sunday's porgy fishing was a complete leap job with over 1000 large porgies running from large to jumbos coming over the rail from the Gardiner's Island area. The pool fish for the day was a 14¾ lb. weak. George says the porgies are settling in now. Heavy catches can now be made with considerable certainty. One customer also had an 8½ lb. fluke on a porgy rig. George says come on down and load up.

Capt. Bob Ciglowski of the **Peconic Star** tells us that Friday saw excellent porgy fishing with catches from 15 to 45 fish a man. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Sztoic boated 76 porgies along with a black and a flounder. Saturday's action was fair to good with a lot of blacks mixed in at Plum Island. Sunday was super excellent with catches averaging 70 porgies a man. Ed Hagner was high hook and there

Mike, Paul and Monica Longarello display a catch of 14 fluke made at Petty's Bight on squid and sand eel combos. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

This impressive haul of porgies and weakfish was made at buoy 25 on worms and skimmers by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hoggard of Brooklyn. Fishing was done from a skiff rented at Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

were roughly 700 porgies on the boat Sunday. Porgy fishing couldn't be much better says Bob, and he advises that you try to make it during the week when it's less crowded.

A.P. White Bait Shop called to say that all the fishing boats out of Greenport did very well on fluke, porgies and blues working Pidgeon Rip and the Race. There was good fluke fishing at the Ruins off Gardiner's and the area east of Gardiner's produced good porgy catches. Snapper fishing has been good at Greenport itself. Mr. Cecil of Greenport on Saturday night caught a 40 lb. striper off Callahan's Beach casting a surge tube.

Capt. Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that Wednesday's charter for Lenny Buckholtz of Measurement Tech., Great Neck, hoisted 38 big fluke and 1 bluefish working east of Gardiner's. Friday's trip for the Levingood family of Centereach, had 26 fluke for the 3 youngers in the family. Sunday's trip saw a load of fluke come aboard, fishing east of Gardiner's. These ran from 14'' to 5 lbs. with few midgets. All fluke catches have been on squid and sand eels with incoming tide best and next best at the change to the outgoing.

Charter boat **Blue Albatross** reports that Sunday's trip saw 55 keeper fluke flapping on the deck taken at the Ruins off Gardiner's Island. This was on squid and sand eels.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports porgies at Mashamok Point and South Ferry in the Bay. Porgies and weaks at Nassau Point, fish mixed sizes up to 1½ lbs. Porgies are getting better and better at Petty's Bight at Orient. These are mostly

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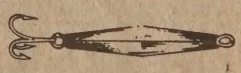

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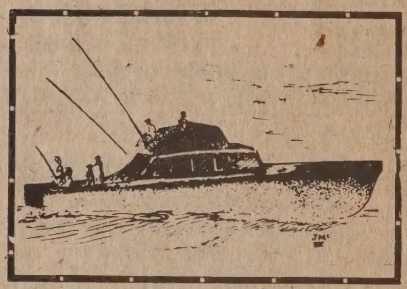

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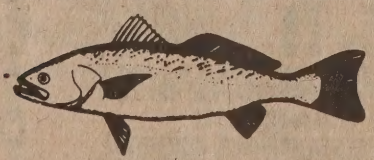

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larger fish. Clam and worm on the hook. Fluke from Mulford Point to the front of Orient station. Flounder still being caught on worm, clam and mussel at the traps just east of Orient Station, fish going from 1 to 1½ lbs. A few good blackfish being caught at the Orient Lighthouse on fiddlers and green crab with outgoing working best. Blues in the Sound on diamond jigs.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station tells of good porgy and weakfish catches over the weekend. Best was buoy 22, Nassau Point and off the Roses Grove radio tower in deep water. John Hecknam had 20 weaks Monday morning of this week and L.I.F. staffer Doc. Muller bagged 30 weakfish this Monday morning also just as we were going to press. These weaks fell for squid and sand worms. Lots of porgies on worm and clam and Sal tells us that many of his skiffs returned with over 300 porgies. Other good spots for weaks and porgies have been a quarter mile off the Roses Grove Beach, along with buoys 23, 25, 29 and 30.

Newt at **Capt. Jim's Fishing Station** had a sell out of boats for Saturday's hot fishing. There were loads of porgies and weaks caught along with one lonesome kingfish. Newt says one party got a load of fish working buoy 30 which is west of Robin's Island. Buoy 22 and Roses Grove in the deep water is also very productive. Buoys 23 and 25 behind the Island are also hot on both tides. Sand worms are working best for the porgies and weaks. Porgies are mixed sizes and the weaks are from 1½ to 2 pounders. Lots of fish around says Newt.

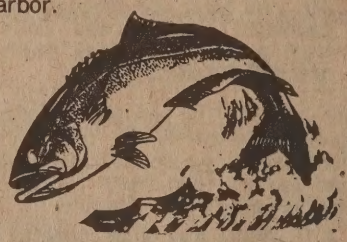
NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** says that on Sunday Serg Bernardini and sons Tony and Bob and Bill Fales, fished off Long Beach and ended up keeping 70 big porgies and they returned over 70. The keepers included many hump-backs. They also had school weaks and some fluke. All this was done drifting squid and sand worms on the bottom. Up to a dozen weakfish per boat were caught Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday off the Monastery and Long Beach on squid. The fish are there says Helen.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** says that the porgy fishing is still good near buoy 4 at Cedar Point and also near buoy 13. Fluking has slowed down. People are catching loads of snappers every where. A charter for Ricardo Diaz of the Bronx boated over 100 porgies averaging a pound on worms on the flood tide. Night catches off Long Beach on weakfish are good with squid as hook bait. A few weaks are being caught at Cedar Point in the 7 to 10 lb. range.

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** tells us that Monday's porgies were very good, Thursday and Friday porgies were slow, and Saturday was very good. On Monday's trip in just one and a half hours fishing, fares had all they wanted and then requested to go back to the dock. They had doubles and triples as fast as they could get lines down. These were mixed sized porgies and were held by chum. Saturday's porgies were almost as good as Mondays. The porgies had been moving around but the skipper says they should start to settle down this week. Tuesday and Thursday's fluke trips are worth noting. On Tuesday the fishing was worse than the weather. Wednesday's trip saw 17 fares gather up over 70 fluke averaging 2½ to 4 lbs. with no throw-backs. The pool fish ran 7½ lbs. Thursday's ladies' day trip saw the pool taken by a Mrs. Jones of Sag Harbor.



NORTH SHORE
MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** spoke of loads of small porgies all over for beach fishermen and boatmen. Some fluke to 4 lbs. being taken on sand eel and squid combos in 15' of water along Cedar Beach. Jiggers and trollers continue to take blues in the 8-9 lb. range at buoy 9.

SELDEN

Ken at **Angler's Den** tells us that the Sound is loaded with weaks and blues from Crane's Neck to Buoy 9. Blues are from snapper size up to 12 lbs. Weaks are running from 2 to 14 lbs. and hitting diamond jigs. At night, jelly worms, jigs and sand worms are all producing weaks. Fishing is hot. Plenty of snappers and porgies from the beach on worm bait. Fluke up to 7 lbs. are being taken on sand eels and squid. Kenny Jr. took a 12 lb. weak on Sunday night, on a white jelly worm fishing in local grounds.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports lots

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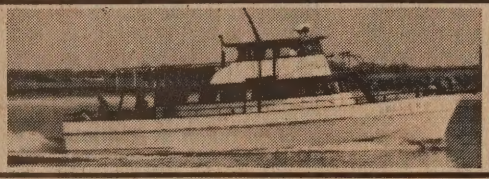

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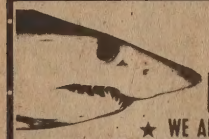

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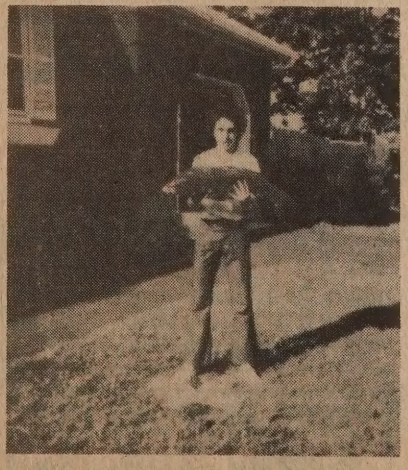

Robert Jorgenson landed this 13 lb. carp in the Carmen's River from a homemade raft. Subscriber club photo.

of weaks and blues being jigged daytime just outside Mt. Sinai Harbor at the Ledge. Weaks are running 7 yo 10 lbs. and blues 3 to 5 lbs. The fish are coming out in different spots in the area all day long and they are readily caught. Porgies are being caught in all the rocky areas and are hand sized. This is on clam and worm. Fluke are there for those who try, mostly on the flats outside the station. Lots of 6" class snappers and tinker mackerel in the harbor. Generally the fishing is very good to excellent.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** reports that weakfish from 2 to 12 lbs. are being diamond jigged daytime and wormed at night at Mt. Misery Shoals. Lots of 2 to 5 lb. blues from Crane's Neck Point to Points East. A lot of good fluke outside Mt. Sinai east to Shoreman on squid and sand eels. Snappers all over the place at Cedar Beach. Blues and weaks for surfcasters at Rocky Point. Lots of porgies off Miller Place, Sound Beach and Old Field Point, fish of mixed sizes.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports blues and weaks at buoy 11 a half mile to the east at the drop-off, on diamond jigs. The blues are 4 to 7 pounders on the average, weaks averaging 8 lbs. Catches are heavy and the fish are hitting on all tides. Porgy action has been good at Mt. Misery Point and Old Field Point, for fish of mixed sizes on both tides on clam and worm. Some fluke off the Pink Mansion at Mt. Misery Point with some good keepers being hoisted all on squid, sand eels or spearing. Lots of snappers being caught with blue claw crabs starting.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports a couple of fluke caught off the dock by Tom Foley while snapper fishing. Crab Meadow has been producing 6 to 7 lb. blues on Tri-Fin spoon jigs. Sal and

Paul Bruno boated six 10 to 15 lb. blues off Sunken Meadow while boat fishing using poppers. Lots of small snappers on killies and small tin.

NORTHPORT

Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that Eatons Neck is now hot as bluefish in the 6-10 lb. class have settled into the area and are being taken by jiggers, trollers, and casters. Dave Spindell, his son Brian and George Harak had a load of fish early Saturday morning topped off by a 12 lb. weak and a 9½ lb. blue. All of their fish were taken on jig and tube combos which have been in great demand since the action began. Two to four lb. weaks being taken every evening behind Duck Island on drifted jelly worms and cast Tri-Fin spoon jigs. Lots of small porgies and loads of snappers in the harbor.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** called to report fantastic bluefish catches on the 4:30 a.m. runs, with 100s of blues being caught on each trip. Scott Schleyeg of Huntington Station on Sunday took the pool with a 9 lb. blue and 5 others. Delores Schmidt of Woodbury on Saturday had an 11 lb. blue on the evening trip, had 2 other fish and dropped 4 more blues. On the bottom runs, a lot of porgies were caught all week long. The skipper asks you to take note that Wednesdays and Fridays morning bluefish runs are being extended to 4:30 a.m. to 12 noon so that customers can bag up. A female angler by the name of Carol from Farmingdale took a 6½ lb. striped bass on a diamond jig on Thursday morning.

Please note that on the **Ever Ready** early morning trips sailing at 4:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday and Friday mornings, the fare is $15 for adults and $12 for children and senior citizens.

Don Urbanksi with his 13 lb. doormat fluke taken at Eaton's Neck on a Tri-Fin spoon jig. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Bait and Tackle.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** reported a good body of blues now established at Eatons Neck and the obstruction buoy. Fish are being jigged, trolled on umbrella rigs and taken by casters. Weakfish for boatmen along Ashroken, Wednesday JoJo Fusaro took 39 weaks and 2 bluefish casting in this area. Worm trollers continue to take a toll in stripers. John Munno and a companion totaled 43 stripers in 2 nights trolling worms along the local shore line. While most of the fish averaged 3-4 lbs. some go to 9 lbs. Gary Osso worm trolled 8 stripers Friday night. Decent porgie action off of Marshall Field and fluke seem to be establishing themselves in the rip off of Eatons Neck. Good snapper fishing in the harbor on small sidewinders and Kastmasters.

GLEN COVE

Capt. Joe on the **Lady Lil II** called to say he's been having very good bluefishing action with choppers up to 13 lbs. mostly at Eaton's Neck. He's also been getting big weakfish. This has all been on A-47 jigs.

Dave of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported a showing of small bass and medium weaks along the Glen Cove shore. Everett "Meat" Johnson had several weaks in the 5 lb. class off Matinnecock Pt. both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings on jelly worms. From Wednesday to Friday of last week, Mike Lotito and Pete Bailey fishing in their own boats, picked away at bass in the Davison's area using sand worms. Mike did well with school fish while Pete managed to take a few fish in the teen range. On Friday, the same Mike Lotito and Sam Zariou fished Eaton's Neck and took 20 blues from 4-6 lbs. on jigs in the early AM. Stret Whitting weighed in an 11 lb. 1 oz. weak which he took on a an umbrella rig on Friday. This tiderunner is the current leader in the weakfish category of the shop contest. Art Hall and John Cook fishing the shoreline from West Hempstead to Little Neck Harbor took 5 stripers to 4 lbs. on jelly worms and bucktails. All of the fish were released, 2 with tags. Loads of snappers all along the shoreline according to Dave.

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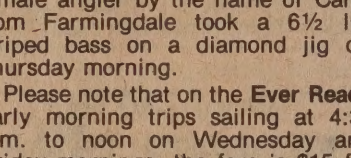

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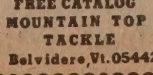

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NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLUEFISH

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Matty Kaspak, Sr. displays two of eight blackfish he caught from the surf at Sound Beach. Subscriber photo.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle told us boatmen are taking loads of sand porgies near the old CBS tower. Snapper fishing in the area is now very good with the fish improving in size each week. On Sunday, diamond jiggers took big bluefish in deep water near the Throgs Neck Bridge. Worm trollers continue to score with school bass at Hart's Island

This tautog looks much bigger to the camera's eye than it did in real life. Nonetheless, 13 lbs. is still a fine blackfish. Carlos Brown caught it aboard the "Ebb Tide II."

The only hint that the summer doldrums are upon us comes from the weatherman who has been feeding us a steady diet of heat and humidity. Surf action in many areas along the South Shore and at Montauk was anything but in the doldrums as blues provided blitz fishing for many this past week.

Heavy weakfish catches were the rule at Montauk, where a good run of fish has developed from Gin Beach to Shagwong.

Most of the North Shore, on th the other hand, remains quiet with only an occasional small weak or blue taken in most areas.

This is the way things shaped up after our usual round of phoning.

South Shore

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island said that the surf continued relatively quiet again this week. The only steady action being provided by small bluefish from 1-3 lbs. being taken on bait from the South Beach storm sewers to Great Kills Park. All the fish being taken are on cut bait with the best chance to score being in the evening hours. Piers 8 and 12 have been yielding some 10-12 lb. bluefish on bunker chunks, but this action lasts for only about a half hour around sunrise.

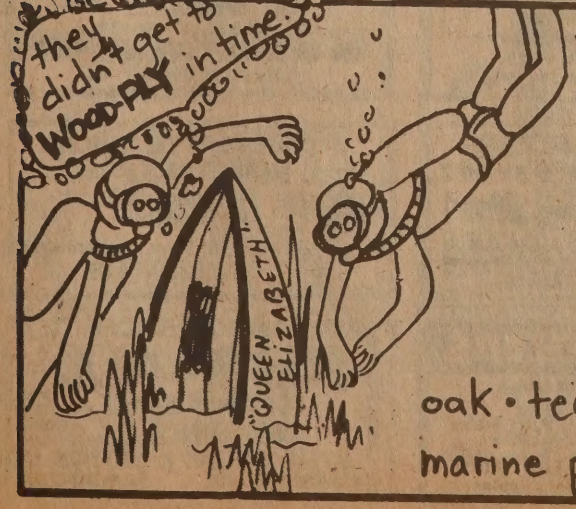
From **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** I was told of a catch of four weaks from 7-8 lbs. and 14 blues up to 13 lbs. made by Ross and Bill. John told me the pair took all of the fish on bunker chunks in the wee hours of Sunday morning at the Marine Parkway Bridge.

Charlie Beckman weighed in an 11½ lb. blue for Jim Ayling, Jr. of Valley Stream over the weekend. Jim took the big chopper Saturday night and dropped another of similar size. He had returned Saturday after dropping two nice bass in the wash on Friday night. Jim estimated both bass to be in the teens. All of this fishing was done with live eels.

I heard from a reliable source that the jetty at West end surrendered lots of small blues to casters using tin Wednesday evening. No mention was made of weaks or bass.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in Babylon I was told that Bill Seawata took 6 weaks to 8 lbs. on jelly worms in addition to a few blues from the Sore Thumb one day late last week.

Hays from **The Store** at Oak Beach weighed in a 12 lb. 2 oz. bluefish taken by George Wade on Tuesday of last week. Several live sand eels scooped from the surf proved to be the ticket for the big chopper. Hays could also report from firsthand experience that loads of 2-3 lb. bluefish were taken by casters working the beach east of the jetty at Democrat on Thursday. Weakfishing at the Point which had slacked off for about a week appeared to be gaining some momentum again with tiderunners being taken on night tides with sand worms. Still some blues and a



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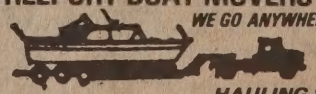

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few weaks in the early AM and evenings from the Thumb, but it is not a daily affair.

Carl Miller told me from his **Bay Shore Tackle Shop** that Pete Selman had over 50 blues on tin during the week at Democrat. Pete concentrated his efforts to the early morning hours.

The most recent report of bluefish action at Democrat came from Rich Norcia of East Islip who, along with his buddy Greg enjoyed some fast action with 2-4 lb. choppers early Sunday morning. According to Rich, everyone was taking fish on tins from the jetty east.

Dick of **Dicks Bait and Tackle** in Mastic Beach reported good action with weaks and blues most of the week from the Smith's Point pavilion to Moriches Inlet. Most of the weakfish he said were being taken towards the inlet, while the best bluefishing appeared to be about midway to the jetty. Tins fished tight to the bottom were the ticket for the weaks, while blues were taken on both poppers and tin. A 16 lb. striper was weighed in at the shop but the angler chose to remain anonymous, although he did admit to the fish's being taken at Smith's Point.

Great South Bay Anglers Club member Stevie Jendricks took 9 blues Tuesday and 8 Wednesday on poppers between the pavilion and the inlet. While most of Stevie's fish ranged from 5-7 lbs. he knew that other casters took fish of 9 and 10 lbs.

Tom told me from his Shinnecock Tackle Shop that bluefish have been moving in and out along the ocean beach and the inlet. Best action has been early AM and evenings on poppers and tins. Most fish run from 2-6 lbs. Some good catches of weaks in the 3-8 lb. class made on the ocean beach with sand worms and tins. On the west side of the inlet, casters

Elliot Isband and Bob and Greg Blair with 9 bluefish from 4-6 lbs., taken on plugs off of Crane's Neck. Subscriber photo.

continue to pick away at short stripers.

A good run of weakfish on the north side of Montauk, reported Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop.** Many casters took 10-15 of the yellowfins apiece using small red gills as droppers ahead of Red Fins or small darters. Fish range from 4-8 lbs. and fishing continued hot through the entire latter half of this past week. Nothing doing up front, according to John but he did know that on Thursday morning, one angler took 3 weaks and 2 blues casting squid down near Gurneys. To underscore the weakfish action along Gin Beach and at Shagwong, John reported the catches made by Jack Yee, Mike D'Arcangelo and Tony Luca. Wednesday night, two of the three anglers put away 25 weaks, while on Thursday 32 fish fell to the trio. Friday the three did a real job on the fish, but left no figures. Nearly all the fish fell to the small redgill dropper.

North Shore

From his City Island Tackle Shop, Jack told me that school bass up to 5 and 6 lbs. continue to be taken from Turtle Cove in good numbers. Sand worms, small Rebels and small bucktails have all proven effective for these fish. As was the case last year, it appears that the bass in this area will remain throughout the season. Jack also mentioned that an occasional weakfish is mixed with the bass in the early AM on worm bait.

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported the surf dead in his area with the exception of a lot of short stripers. Steve Broznya has been putting his flyrod to use with the small bass along the shore at Matinnecock and every now and then manages to take a keeper out of the bunch. Steve has found a brown bucktail streamer to be the most effective pattern with the fish.

In the Huntington area Ronnie Ferraro said he has heard of no weakfish or bluefish action in the surf, but he did hear of a few school bass taken on Rebels at Caumset this past week. In general, the surf scene in the area appeared pretty dismal, despite all of the fish now being taken by boatmen in the area.

In Northport, Tom Bowman reported from his shop that small blues from 1-2 lbs, continue to provide the only entertainment for surf casters in the area. Small tins, Rebels and bucktails have been taking the fish.

A few school bass and a couple of weaks being taken on sand worms west of Hagerman's landing according to Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop.** Taylor blues from 1-1½ lbs. roam up and down local beaches, but are not getting much attention from serious surfmen. Occasionally, there will be some decent activity with small weaks on tins and bait, but nothing really consistent has developed.

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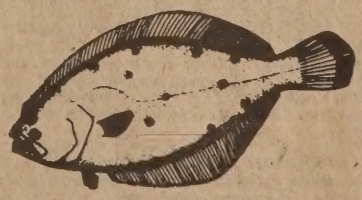

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3 SWORDFISH IN ONE DAY ON ROD AND REEL

The Rhode Island Department of Economic Development, in their July 21st Bulletin, reported on July 19, Bob Meloccaro, fishing on the SUJO off Block Island, took swords of 200, 300 and 400 lbs. on a rod and reel. Congratulations to Bob on an outstanding catch.

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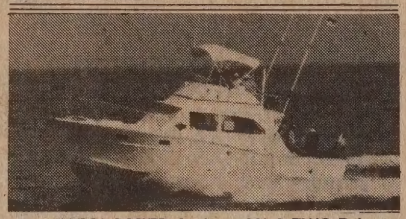

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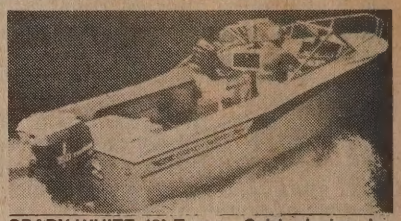

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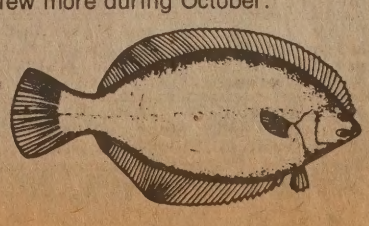
1980 ATLANTIC SALMON RETURN IS BEST YET

It has been another successful spring for the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. From April to July of this year, 157 adult salmon returned from the ocean to the Connecticut River and its tributaries as a result of a State/Federal program designed to bring Atlantic salmon back to a watershed where the species was once plentiful. The program is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; its counterpart agencies in the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Forest Service.

A majority of the returning salmon, 118, were captured alive at the Holyoke dam fishlift on the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. An additional 20 salmon were captured at the Rainbow dam fishway on the Farmington River in Windsor, Connecticut, and one salmon was taken at the new Leesville dam fishway on the Salmon River in East Haddam, Connecticut. Besides these fish captured at the dams by biologists, 18 other salmon were captured or found by members of the public at various locations along the rivers. Most of these fish had died before they were reported to biologists, due to natural causes or injuries suffered when they were hooked or netted and handled.

All live salmon were transported to hatcheries where they are now awaiting artificial spawning in the fall. The eggs taken from the fish at that time will be hatched and the young fish will be raised in a hatchery for two years. The fish will then be stocked into the rivers in 1982 and will return to create an adult salmon run in 1984. Some fish have died from natural causes while in the hatcheries, but as of July 20 there were 111 live salmon, and biologists believe that most of them will survive until the November spawning.

Commenting on the size of the spring salmon run, Robert A. Jones, Chief of the DEP's Fisheries Unit, stated that 1980 is already the most successful year for the restoration program (91 salmon returned in 1978 and 60 in 1979) and more salmon may yet return. Although most Atlantic salmon ascend the rivers during the spring and early summer, Jones explained that some salmon arrive in the fall after the water temperatures have cooled down and the rivers have been replenished by fall rains. Biologists do not expect any more salmon this summer, but hope to get a few more during October.



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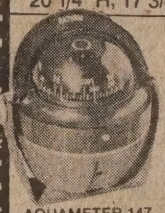

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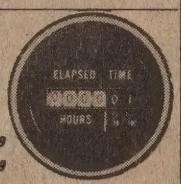

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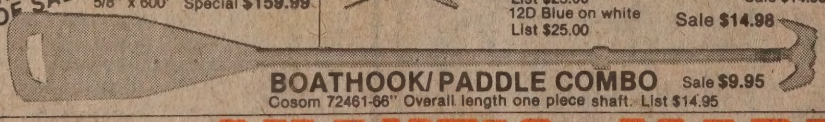

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